Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

4698

Statement Refutes Charges Made By Enemy Groups

NEW YORK.—A financial statement showing a total income of $61,825.23, and a total expenditure of $64,351.75 on the Scottsboro case over the 40-month period from April 11, 1931, to August 31, 1934, was made public by the International Labor Defense last week.

The statement showed an expenditure of $38,181.05, or 62.1% of the total income, on strictly legal expenses in connection with the case. This figure covers lawyers' fees and expenses, investigations which resulted in complete exposure of the Scottsboro frame-up, printing and court records, and expenses connected with the three Scottsboro trials, two appeals to the state Supreme Court, one complete appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court and partial expenses for the present appeal, and numerous motions and habeas corpus proceedings in the nine cases.

Expenditures for relief to the prisoners and their families, and expenses in connection with visits of the parents and their sons, total 3,633.52, or 5 per cent of the total income.

The expenses of the mass campaign which has raised the Scottsboro case to international significance and made the issues involved known to tens of millions all over the world, rousing them to struggle on behalf of the boys, were 7,670.36, or 12.3 per cent of the total amount collected.

It was this mass campaign, in- ding nation-wide and international speaking tours, the Scotts- oro March to Washington in 1933, publicity on an international le, which made it possible to collect the huge sums needed for legal fense, and without which legal nse carried on in the heart of South without the eyes of the ld upon the court-room, could have been sufficient to keep Scottsboro boys alive for three half years.

ministrative expenses over the nth period were $14,866.82, or cent of the total amount of ctions. This percentage, it was d out, is much lower than that milar expenses in any defense on such a scale over such a of time. In contrast to this percentage, the I.L.D. pointed high overhead expenses in ial campaigns on a mass scale organizations as the Y. M. C. A., and the Red Cross. The percentage spent on overhead by the Red Cross as recently revealed in the the article by John L. Spivak in the American Mercury is 71½%.

INCOME:			Percentages
Through I. L. D.	$47,235.66		
N.A.A.C.P.	3,482.20		
A. C. L. U.	2,713.05		
N. C. D. P. P.	8,394.32		
TOTAL INCOME		$61,825.23	100. %

EXPENDITURES: Legal, Court, Investigation & Various Litigation expenses:	Paid by I.L.D.	Paid by Lawyers	Total	
Various Decatur Trial Expenses	1,644.50	$1,325.65	$2,970.15	4.9%
Investigations	4,323.35	5,197.84	9,521.19	15.5%
Stenographic Fees for Trial Reports	259.76	645.24	905.00	1.6%
Protection Payments—Lawyers		861.00	861.00	1.5%
Cost of Court Records & printing of appeals	1,942.70	2,451.10	4,393.80	7.1%
Preparation 1934 appeals, (June-August)			1,150.00	1.8%
Paid to Attorneys for taxis, telegrams, telephones, during trials.		1,007.30	1.007.30	1.7%
Hotel Expenses, Railroad fare & various other expenses for lawyers and witnesses	2,050.28	2,294.97	4,345.25	7.0%
Payments to Lawyers: Fees & Gen'l Expenses			13,027.36	21.0%
Total Legal, Court Investigation, etc.			$38,181.05	62.1%
Other Scottsboro Expenses				
Prisoners & Parents Relief	3,156.40			5.1%
Parents Fare to Kilby	237.00			0.3%
Mothers' Fares	240.12			0.3%
TOTAL			3,633.52	5.7%
Mass Campaigns:				
Mats & Photos	295.03			0.4%
Buttons & Penny Stamps	732.21			1.1%
Mailing & Advertising	819.46			1.3%
Richard B. Moore Tour	173.28			0.3%
Lucille Wright Tour	311.20			0.5%
Engdahl-Wright Tour	231.68			0.4%
Convention	60.00			0.1%
Org. & Traveling Expenses	1,371.64			2.2%
Scottsboro march to Wash.	1,403.59			2.3%
Labor Defender—Adv.	100.00			0.2%
Petitions	51.16			0.1%
Publicity & Publications	2,121.11			3.4%
TOTAL			7,670.36	12.3%
Administrative:				
Telephone & Telegrams	1,858.01			3.0%
Rent	523.35			0.8%
Southern Office	926.57			1.5%
Wages & Subsidies	3,492.81			5.6%
Stationery & Printing	3,112.29			5.1%
Postage	2,869.37			4.6%
Miscellaneous	2,084.42			3.4%
Total:			14,866.82	24.0%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES			$64,351.75	104.1%
Due from Scottboro Campaign			$ 2,526.52	4.1%

We have examined the books and records of the International Labor Defense, National Office, with respect to the Scottsboro Division. We certify, that the above statement correctly reflects the financial transactions for the period.

CENTRAL AUDIT BUREAU
Morris A. Greenbaum.
By: M. Greenbaum

Charleston, S. C., News & Courier
December 18, 1934

Ret ement of Alabama

The trial of the Scottsboro case by The Nation and The New Republic, New York, assisted by the "International Labor Defense," the Society for the Advancement of the Colored People, and other organizations, proceeds ~~merrily~~. The Nation has withdrawn its saying that "several hundred thousand dollars" has been contributed for the defense of "the boys" ("the boys" are the negro hoboes accused of a heinous crime) and it now appears that only $60,000 or $70,000 has been sent in. The immediate and titanic question in the case is "Who are the attorneys for 'the boys' "?

The courts and the sovereign state of Alabama are the small fry and receive slight attention in the trial as it goes on in New York. As for "the boys" The New Republic and The Nation already have acquitted them.

Nothing in this is likely to disconcert the Alabamians. They seem content to surrender their sovereignty. They have succumbed to the federal government. They are looking for Mr. Harry Hopkins to support their schools and provision their teachers.

For Alabama the congressmen are getting everything that they can from Washington while the getting is good. If the spectacle of the federal government taking over most of the administration of Alabama does not preturb them, hardly would they resent the transfer of a negro case from Alabama to New York, Washington, or other foreign parts.

If they like and applaud the supreme court of the United States in decisions blotting out the State of Alabama, perhaps they would not complain if it should quietly and gradually deprive Alabama of the right that it has hitherto enjoyed of choosing its juries in its own way and of trying and punishing crimes by its own courts and officers.

Sanford, N. C. Enterprise
January 4, 1935

Survey Shows 15 Negroes Were Lynched During Year

Tuskegee, Ala, Dec. 28—There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings in 1934. when 14 Negroes were lynch throughoutthe nation

This information was contained today in a report released by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee institutions in the country.

There were 13 fewer lynchings this year than recorded in 1933.

In the instances where officers prevented the lynchings, the report said "seven were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states"

Lynchings - 1934
Legal Punishment for Rape

4699

Alabama

ATTY. GENERAL KNIGHT HAS BEST CHANCE OF WINNING AGAIN

Jeffersonian 1-20-34

Chicago, Ill.

Alabama Political Pot Boils

By JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES
(In the New York Times)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The three Alabamians who have een most conspicuous in the conduct of the Scottsboro rials at Decatur will be among the candidates for office in the tate Democratic primaries next May. While each has a general ecord to offer or to be examined, the part each has played in his famous case is sure to bear importantly upon his fate at he polls.

Two of these Alabamians—Circuit udge W. W. Callahan and Attorney eneral Thomas E. Knight — undoubtedly will profit from the fact hat the one presided and imposed a eath sentence in the second Decatur rial and that the other conducted he prosecution in both trials.

Whether or not the third one, Circuit Judge James E. Horton, will suffer from the fact that he refused to ccept a jury's verdict of guilty in he trial over which he presided last pring and ordered a new trial, is a oot question throughout the state.

As a candidate for Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General Knight has opposition thus far, although State entative Earl McGowin, a young man whose intelligent ative record has won him con repute, is being urged as a sible opponent. Mr. Knight's con in the Scottsboro case is certain weigh decisively for him with the labamians who have come to look him as their state's knight against Communists, Negroes New York lawyers.

Election Assured

Since a great many other Ala who are critical of the ttsboro jury decisions feel, never that the attorney general his official part fairly and and since his general record in office has had little or no criticism, his nomination and election seem to be assured at this writing.

Judge Horton, whose formal announcement was made on Monday, has two opponents already. One is State Representative F. B. St. John, an attorney, whom the Birmingham Post describes as a "veteran tool of reactionary interests." The other is former Judge Osceola Kyle, one-time member of the state railroad commission, who was defeated by Judge Callahan in the last election.

Judge Horton's decision to make the race reverses an earlier decision on his part to retire from the bench because of popular disapproval of his attitude in the Scottsboro case. The reversal came about as a result, apparently, of resolutions adopted unanimously by the bar association of Athens, his home. The resolutions urge him to stand for another term and indorse him as a "judge of unimpeachable character and integrity . . . untrammeled by political considerations . . . unflinching in the discharge of your duties as a judge."

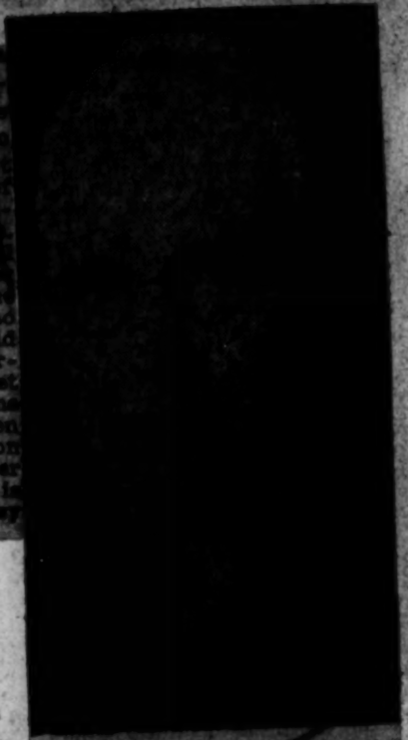
Published last week all over Alabama, these resolutions have been taken by a considerable sector of the press as signal for a somewhat surprising chorus of editorial praise for Judge Horton and hope for his reelection. The Huntsville Times, the Limestone Democrat, the Houston Herald, the Selma Times-Journal and others have joined the Birmingham Age-Herald and the Birmingham Post in suggesting that the real issue in Judge Horton's case is not his decisions at Decatur, but the courage and conscience he showed in making them. Whether the voters of his district, most of whom probably disapprove the decisions, will be willing to make such a distinction in his favor, remains to be seen.

Let Justice Prevail

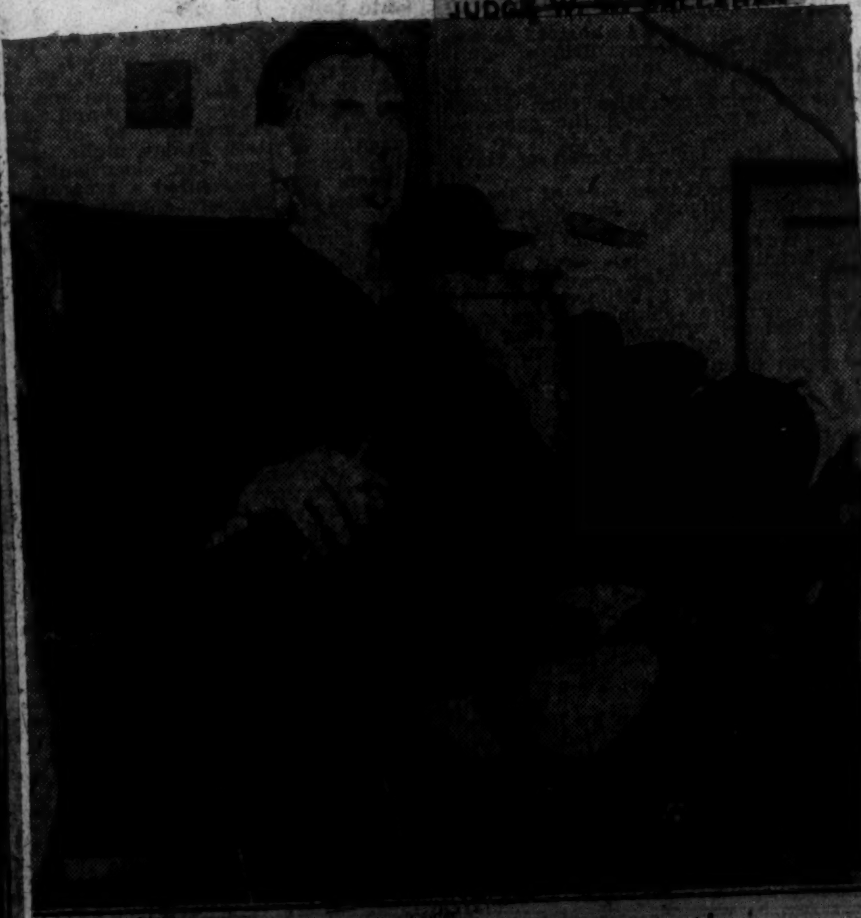
Such an inclination comes in part of their feeling that Judge Horton is their own good man, no matter how foreign the occasional company his conscience makes him keep. They feel it because he himself feels it.

He has little or no thought for the liberal and other groups which acclaim him from a distance. He does the right thing as he sees it, with no particular sense of the scene about him, but with an enormous sense of right-doing ancestors gone and example-bound descendants to come. His "social conscience" is vertical rather than horizontal. Justice for him is still the simple principle he learned at the knee of a mother who taught him, he will tell you, the old Roman precept he has never yet forgot—"Fiat justitia, ruat coelum (Let there be justice though the heavens fall)." He wants justice done even though the political heavens fall upon him. He wants it because his mother taught him to want it. Such a man is hard for liberals to lionize, but easy for homefolks to forgive.

ATTORNEY GENERAL KNIGHT



JUDGE W. W. CALLAHAN



JUDGE JAMES E. HORTON

Jeffersonian 1-20-34

Judge "Speedy" Callahan, Attorney General Thomas Knight and Judge James E. Horton are three of Alabama's leading jurists who are seeking re-election on the strength of their records made in handling the notorious Scottsboro cases. Judge Horton, who made a signal effort to be fair and just, and who reversed the decision of the jury in his court in the case of Heywood Patterson, will have the hardest fight of his career, say observers.

Scottsbor [illegible] Are Victims of Alabama Prison Graft Racket

Guards Take Presents and Money Sent by Public; Food Is Rotten

1-27-34

Chicago Defender

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 26. — Request that money for cigarets and stamps sent to the Scottsboro boys in Birmingham county jail here be sent in cash by registered mail, and that all packages for them be registered or sent to the southern district office of the International Labor Defense, Box 604, Birmingham, Ala., for transmission to them was made by the southern office here following a visit to the boys by Attorney Benjamin J. Davis Jr. of Atlanta on behalf of the I. L. D.

Many packages of comforts sent to the Scottsboro boys, and especially to Roy Wright and Eugene Williams, from all over the country, have never been received by them, but have been illegally retained by the prison authorities. When they have received money orders with which to buy cigarets, stamps and stationery, the guards have refused to have them cashed unless a percentage is turned over.

Stage Food Revolt

Charlie Weems, one of the boys, was recently sent into solitary confinement for more than a week because he participated in a strike of 26 prisoners against the rotten food served them in the jail.

A definite attempt is being made by keeping Roy Wright and Eugene Williams isolated from the other boys to split them off from the other seven, the I. L. D. has charged. The same purpose is behind the persistent theft of packages and mail from them by prison guards.

Scottsboro Retrial Pleas Postponed

DECATUR, ALA., Jan. 23.—(AP)—Judge W. W. Callahan today postponed until Feb. 24 the hearing on motions for new trials for Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, sentenced to death in the "Scottsboro case" trials here several weeks ago.

The postponement was granted at the request of defense attorneys, who advised Judge Callahan they would be unable to complete preparation of briefs for the hearing by Friday, the date originally set for the hearings.

Patterson was convicted for the third time and Norris for the second before Judge Callahan at the recent trials on charges of having attacked Mrs. Victoria Price aboard a freight train in Jackson County, Ala., on March 25, 1931.

The first convictions were set aside by the United States Supreme Court. Judge James E. Horton, who presided at the second trial of Patterson, set the death verdict aside in that case, holding the evidence insufficient to warrant the death penalty.

SCOTTSBORO DRAMA BARRED IN CAPITAL

Juvenile Actors in Cast Given as Reason for Banning 'They Shall Not Die' Action.

2-14-34

"They Shall Not Die," a new play by John Wexley, based upon the Scottsboro (Ala.) case, which the Theatre Guild had scheduled for presentation in Washington next week and for a Broadway première at the Royale Theatre on Monday evening, Feb. 26, will not be shown in Washington and will open here instead next Wednesday evening, Feb. 21.

New York

Rumors from Washington that the presentation of the play at the National Theatre there had been canceled because of its treatment of the racial question were denied at the offices of the Guild yesterday by Warren P. Munsell, business manager; Theresa Helburn and Lawrence Langner, directors. They said that the Guild felt it would be difficult to prepare the play for a Washington presentation and that thre child actors in the cast were barred by law from appearing in that city. Advertisements of the play's engagement in Washington were carried by the newspapers there on Sunday.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—Officials of the National Theatre here said tonight that the booking of the Theatre Guild's "They Shall Not Die" had been canceled because of the District of Columbia laws preventing the appearance on the stage of any one under 16. Racial considerations were believed to have contributed to the decision.

It was recalled that the appearance of "The Green Pastures" here had occasioned many protests. That play too suffered in casting because of the minimum age laws. A special performance of "The Green Pastures" was given here last year for Negroes, who were not admitted to regular performances.

"They Shall Not Die" was scheduled to open next Monday. The Guild's "School for Husbands" will be presented instead.

THEATRE CANCELS SCOTTSBORO PLAY

2-13-34

National Theatre Patrons Protest Showing of Play on Negro Theme

Because white Washington theatre-goers protested so vigorously against the proposed showing of the play, "They Shall Not Die," a drama dealing with the Scottsboro case, the management of the National Theatre has withdrawn it from the season's schedule, it was announced this week.

First word of the cancellation came from the office of Manager Steve Cochrane, of the National, who gave as his reason for the cancellation the fact that three children in the cast would be barred from acting in the District because of their age. Later, however, word trickled down from New York that the real reason for the cancellation of the play was the terrific howl of protest which Washington theatre Guild patrons raised when they heard that the final play of the subscription season dealt with a Negro theme and the Scottsboro case.

The National Theatre management was flooded with indignant protests as soon as the preliminary announcement was made. "We don't want to see a play about the Scottsboro case," a swarm of furious patrons cried.

So, in place of the Wexley play, which has become one of the season's hits in New York, prejudiced Washingtonians will view a gentle, amusing, mildly satiric drama, "The School for Husbands."

The Scottsboro Case

A BIRMINGHAM reporter, visiting New Orleans, who reported the trial of the negroes at Scottsboro charged with having attacked two girls in a box car, says the merits of the case have been lost sight of.

The contest, he declares, is between the Alabama prosecution and the New York defense lawyers, and the issue not whether the negroes are guilty.

An organization in the East has sent counsel to Alabama to handle the case. They may be good lawyers, but they have shown a complete lack of discretion in the conduct of the case and have sought to show that there is simply a racial issue involved with Southern prejudice against the negro influencing court and jury.

The result, says this reporter, is the arousing of a feeling of antipathy all over Alabama to these invading lawyers and a sentiment against the prisoners, some of whom are probably innocent.

* * *

THIS is a deplorable situation. We referred to it when the first trials were had and suggested that the defense should be left in the hands of Alabama lawyers, white and colored, as recently Virginia in a sensational murder trial did, with the result that there was no violence, the trial was conducted in an orderly manner and the accused negro principal was sentenced to a term in the penitentiary.

We hope in the end that justice will be done to the Scottsboro negroes. They should be hanged if they are proven guilty. They should be discharged if they are the victims of a conspiracy based on their color, which is probably the case. It would be a crime to hang them if the latter is true.

It is amazing that these lawyers of the East, hired by certain organizations there that are inherently South-hating, should not realize they are periling the lives of these negroes, when they might save them by standing aside and letting the defense be conducted by Alabama lawyers willing to see that the case is tried on its merits.

Lynchings - 1934

Arkansas.

4700

Legal Punishment for Rape

11 Years for Assault

LONOKE, Ark., Sept. 10.— Jim Brown, negro, who was held in the Lonoke County jail on the charge of criminally assaulting a woman on Aug. [illegible], pleaded guilty and was sentenced by Judge [illegible] W. Waggoner to serve 11 years in the penitentiary.

Lynchings-1934
&
Legal Punishment for [illegible]ape.

California

4701

CONVICT YOUNG TULLY

Son of Novelist Found Guilty on Attempted Attack Charge

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 8.—(US)—Thomas A. Tully, 22, son of Jim Tully, the novelist, today was found guilty by a jury of attempting to attack Mrs. Violet [illegible]. He will be sentenced next Tuesday and faces possible imprisonment of from one to five years.

Lynchings - 1934

Legal Punishment for Rape

Florida

4782

~~Negro Ex-Convict~~ Doomed for Assault

MIAMI, Fla., Sept. 14.—(AP)—A 32-year-old negro ex-convict, Walter (Dock) Williams, was convicted here tonight on the first of four indictments charging attacks upon white women. The death penalty is mandatory.

9-15-34

A circuit court jury deliberated little more than two hours in reaching the verdict. Sentence will be passed after the statutory four-day motions period, unless stopped by legal bar.

Williams was arrested here August 30, and linked to the crime through possession of a wrist watch which had been snatched from the arm of the attack victim.

Officials were undecided tonight whether the negro would be brought to trial in the other attack cases or on two other indictments charging attempted assaults.

Lynchings - 1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Georgia

4710

TALMADGE TO SEE ASSAULT VICTIM

Governor Withholds Decision on John Downer's Plea for Life Until Interview

Telegraph
3-15-34
Macon, Ga.

ATLANTA, March 14 (AP)—Governor Talmadge heard a last plea today for the life of John Downer, Elberton Negro sentenced to die Friday for an attack on a young white woman in 1931, but postponed his decision until he can interview the victim of the alleged assault and her escort early tomorrow.

The governor said his principal concern was to determine whether they were of sufficient stability of mentality and character to justify full belief in their identification of the Negro.

The girl and her escort reported that they were held up as they sat in a parked automobile on a dark and lonely road near Elberton, by a Negro who hauled the girl out of the car and attacked her while holding both his victim and the young man under threat of a pistol.

Strozier Makes Plea

Harry Strozier of Macon and Henry C. Hammond of Augusta, counsel for the condemned farm worker, vigorously attacked the identification and expressed doubt that any such attack occurred.

The Negro was saved from a mob by national guardsmen shortly after his arrest, and was tried under military guard the first time. Subsequently a federal court order saved him from the electric chair, on the ground that mob influence may have affected the trial. The second trial was transferred to Oglethorpe county a year later. The supreme court dismissed the appeal on technical grounds.

Two Negroes Face Death Sentences

Telegraph

Executions for Attacker and Killer Set for Friday

3-14-34

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., March 13 A double execution is scheduled a the state prison Friday. John Downer, a Negro, from Elbert county was brought to the prison at noo today and placed in the death cell shortly after Sandy Walker, Worth county Negro, was delivered at the prison.

Macon Ga.

The prisoners were placed in adjoining cells and a death watch established. The Negroes would not talk about their crime, but attentively listened to the chaplain who visited them shortly after their arrival.

Downer will be executed for criminal assaulte on a white woman near Elberton several years ago and Walker will die for the murder of Cliff Kearce and his wife, Betty, prominent Negroes of Sylvester, Ga., who were murdered in 1932. James Thomas, who was an accomplice in the crime, was given life, but escaped from a county gang a short time ago.

A plea will be made to the governor tomorrow morning asking clemency for Downer.

CLEMENCY DENIED TO ELBERT NEGRO

Telegraph

Governor Refuses to Intervene in Downer Case; Worth County Man to Die

3-16-34

ATLANTA, March 15 (AP)—Clemency was denied by Governor Talmadge today to two Negroes sentenced to die in the electric chair at Milledgeville tomorrow.

Macon Ga.

Protracted hearings were held on the cast of John Downer, Elberton Negro, sentenced to death for attacking a white girl in 1931, but the governor, after a private interview with the victim, announced himself satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt as to the Negro's guilt.

The girl was brought here at the governor's request, with the young man who accompanied her the night of the alleged attack, and reported he was held at bay with a pistol while the crime was carried out. The couple were married three days after the attack.

Governor Talmadge yesterday narrowed the case down to the credibility of the identification of Downer by the girl and her companion, and asked that they be brought before him so he could determine for himself whether they were of sufficiently stable nature to make a proper identification under the circumstances.

Telegraph
3-16-34

Negro Is Identified

After ~~the interview he said~~ they both insisted that there was no doubt Downer was the man. He said the girl particularly impressed him as a person "sure of what she knows."

Ga.

Following the private interview the open hearing and corroborative evidence concerning the identification, not brought out at either of Downer's trials, was presented. The defense had attacked the method of identification on the ground that the girl should have been given opportunity to pick the man out of a group and that her companion did not identify him until the trial.

John Cook, silk manufacturer, who employed both the man and the girl, told the governor he saw the youth tell officers four other Negroes brought before him were not the right ones, and later identify Downer. The young silk mill worker agreed with the story. Both said they had not testified on that point at the trials because they were not questioned on it.

"There is no doubt in your mind?" the governor asked the girl pointedly just before he announced his decision.

"No sir," the girl answered, barely above a whisper.

Worthman to Die

Those were the only words she spoke during the proceedings. The rest of the time she sat outwardly composed but breathing hurriedly.

The governor told counsel for Downer that if anything new came up he could be reached through his secretary, T. M. Linder, but Harry Strozier of Macon, one of the attorneys, said he knew of nothing that could be done.

The governor left a few minutes later to spend the week-end in Miami with his staff.

The other case was that of Sandy Walker, convicted in Worth county in 1932 of the slaying of Cliff Kearce and his wife, Negroes. No formal hearing was held in that case.

Men Are Calm

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., March 15 Two Negroes in the deathhouse at the prison farm near here, maintained their calm attitude as time moved on toward the march into the death chamber and execution.

John Downer, convicted of criminal assault of a white girl in Elberton, was apparently unmoved when the warden told him the governor had denied his plea for clemency. He continued to aver that he was innocent and would die for a crime he did not commit.

Sandy Walker, in the adjoining cell, said he would die for telling the truth. He admitted accepting an offer of $15,000 to kill Clifford Kearce and his wife, Betty, prominent Negroes of Worth county, although he did not get the fee when a son of Kearce appeared and claimed the fortune after it was thought he was dead.

The prison warden said the double execution would take place about 11 o'clock tomorrow. Both of the condemned men are calm and seem to give little thought to their pending fate.

DOWNER PAYS IN CHAIR FOR CRIME IN ELBERT

Constitution
3-17-34

Two Negroes Electrocuted Friday at State Prison Farm

Atlanta, Ga.

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., March 16.—(AP)—John Downer, negro, claiming innocence to the last of a charge of assaulting a white woman, and Sandy Walker, negro murderer, who said he was "satisfied," died in the electric chair today.

Downer, the first to pay the penalty, told prison officials another negro wore his shoes at the time of the crime.

Walker admitted previously he killed Clifford and Betty Kearse, prominent Worth county negroes. As the chair adjustments were being made he said: "I am satisfied."

In a final effort to save Downer from the chair attorneys conferred yesterday with Governor Talmadge, who said later he was convinced Downer was guilty. The victim of the attack and the husband she married three days after the crime was committed attended the hearing. The chief executive asked them questions regarding the affair and the husband said he was held at bay by a pistol while the attack was being made.

Downer was given two trials and convicted each time. At the first hearing in Elberton, national guardsmen patrolled the courthouse square.

After his conviction the case was carried to the fifth district court of appeals at New Orleans and a new trial granted on constitutional grounds.

At the second trial troops were not present and the death sentence was again pronounced.

MACON, GA.
NEWS
MAR 17 1934

Georgia Justice

John Downer has gone to his death n the electric chair, protesting his nnocence to the last, and in the considered opinion of many of the ablest minds in Georgia, the state has been guilty of nothing less than judicial murder.

From the first trial of this case to the final refusal of the governor to exercise executive clemency, the fate of this defendant has been determined in an atmosphere of passion and prejudice, of evidence which should not have sent a dog to the pound, of one of the most amazing "identifications" in judicial history, and, by way of culmination, one of the most astonishing decisions ever handed down by the Supreme court of the state of Georgia.

We shall not undertake to rehearse all the details of the case of this Negro. Perhaps it would not be accurate to say that the refusal of the Supreme court of Georgia to grant a new trial on the flimsiest technicality altered the final result.

But it is an illuminating and disquieting commentary on the administration of justice in Georgia when the court of last resort, in a case involving life and death, refused to go into the record, and dismissed a motion for a new trial because of the omission of twenty-one words from a stenographer's transcript of a bill of exceptions!

And what were the words of such tremendous import?

Nothing in the world but the formal statement that it was a bill of exceptions, when in the very nature of the proceeding it could not have been anything else.

Here are the fatal words:

"To which judgment plaintiff in error then and there excepted and here and now excepts and assigns the same as error."

The motion for a new trial had been denied in the lower court. Attorneys for the defendant appealed the case to the Supreme court and drew up a bill of exceptions. One of the attorneys for the defendant dictated this purely formal instrument to a stenographer. In transcribing the notes, the stenographer omitted the twenty-one words just cited.

Three months after the appeal had been argued, the solicitor general of the Northern circuit discovered this technical flaw and brought it before the Supreme court on a motion to dismiss the case.

Attorneys for the defense sought to amend the technical error, but the Supreme court refused to permit the technicality to be cured.

The appeal was dismissed and Downer has gone to his death.

Section 6181 of the Code of Georgia distinctly provides:

> No writ of error shall be dismissed in the Supreme court of this state on any ground whatever which can be removed during the term of the court to which said writ of error is returnable.

Section 6183 says:

> It shall be unlawful for the Supreme court of the state of Georgia to dismiss any case for any want of technical conformity to the statutes or rules regulating the practice in carrying cases to that court, where there is enough in the bill of exceptions or transcript of the record presented, or both together, to enable the court to ascertain substantially the real questions in the case which the parties seek to have decided therein.

Was there not enough in a formal bill of exceptions to show that it was a bill of exceptions, even though a stenographer omitted the words that the plaintiff "excepted and assigns the same as error?"

In any circumstances what excuse could there be for the court's refusal to allow the bill to be amended?

Says Section 6181 of the Code:

> No writ of error shall be dismissed in the Supreme court of this state where, by an amendment to the bill of exceptions, which is hereby declared to be lawful and allowable, any imperfection or OMISSIONS of necessary and proper allegations could be corrected from the record in the case.

What possible escape could there be from the binding effect of words so plain?

Well, such is Georgia justice!

Carson Cuyler, Negro, was found guilty by a Fulton superior court jury Monday afternoon in two cases of attacks on white women and punishment was fixed at [illegible] to 20 years in each case. He will be sentenced today by Judge G. H. Howard.

Constitution [illegible]
Atlanta Ga

We Were Too Generous

Telegraph 8-10-34
Macon Ga

In our effort to set up the entire charges against Judge Pittman in his handling of the case of the Negro rapist, Walter Rowe, as charged by the Talmadge forces, we stated that the Negro was found guilty of the charge of raping a white woman; that Judge Pittman sentenced him to death; that his case was appealed to both Governors Russell and Talmadge, both of whom refused clemency; that then Judge Pittman granted a new trial and allowed him to plead guilty to attempted rape and on this he changed his sentence from death to 20 years in the penitentiary.

The following letter from E. W. Maynard, of Macon, points out that we were in error in saying the Negro pleaded guilty to a charge of attempted rape; Maynard points out that the Negro according to photostatic copy of the evidence pleaded guilty to the indictment; that the indictment was for rape, and therefore the plea of guilty was to rape—and that the law states emphatically that the penalty for this shall be death.

Yet Judge Pittman apparently ignored the law and sentenced him to 20 years. Mr. Maynard's letter is as follows:

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

In your editorial in The Macon Telegraph, dated August 8, 1934 you were in error about Walter Rowe pleading guilty to an assault with intent to rape.

According to the Georgia Woman's World of July 9, 1934, which has a photostat copy of the plea of guilty made by Walter Rowe, it shows that Walter Rowe pleaded guilty to rape and not to assault with intent to rape. The indictment against him was for rape and he pleaded guilty to the indictment which meant he pleaded guilty to the charge of rape, there being no charge in the indictment for assault with intent to rape.

I am sending you a copy of the Georgia Woman's World which shows Walter Rowe pleaded guilty to rape and not to assault and intent to rape.

The News of yesterday contains some affidavits that the victim did not make complaint of being raped. These would be fine if Walter Rowe had not confessed that he was guilty by actually entering a plea of guilt.

I will thank you if you will make this correction in the paper.

Yours very truly.

E. W. MAYNARD.

The argument we made in the editorial of Aug. 8 was that inasmuch as Judge Pittman deviated from the regular practice in handling this case, was irregular, that he might be as irregular in being Governor as he was in being a judge. It is the custom for a court to get entirely through with a case before it is taken up with higher officials to have the sentence changed. And yet the evidence here indicates that Judge Pittman sentenced the Negro to death, then permitted the motion for a new trial to lie over until the case could be handled with the prison commission and then Governor Russell and then Governor Talmadge. When clemency was refused by the higher officials, Judge Pittman, apparently, entertained the motion for a new trial and held the hearing without notice to the defendant's attorney or witnesses, let the Negro plead guilty to the charge in the indictment, which was rape, the penalty for this, as pointed out, is death. Yet according to the evidence Judge Pittman ignored the law in the case and sentenced him to 20 years in the penitentiary; substituting this sentence for his previous sentence of death.

Under this showing of the case, how can any faith be placed in Judge Pittman's claims to respect for the law and his strict observance of the law in event he is elected Governor? Wouldn't he with greater power be less liable to observe the laws, if it is true that he violated one so plainly written as this? It doesn't matter a tinker's dam about the Negro being a half-wit or what the other circumstances were. If he pleaded guilty to the indictment for rape, there was but one thing Judge Pittman could do—and he didn't do it.

Let Judge Pittman explain that little bag of tricks while he is ranting about giving the government back to the people.

Negro Will Hear Doom Pronounced

METTER, Ga., Aug. 9. (AP)—Clifford Duncan, 28-year-old Negro convict, will be sentenced to die in the electric chair next week by Judge Hardeman for criminal attack on an 11-year-old daughter of a Candler county farmer, following the action of the state supreme court yesterday in upholding his conviction.

The Negro was tried last February, convicted and given a death sentence. His attorneys appealed.

Evidence at the trial was to the effect that Duncan, a convict serving a term for a similar offense, saw the girl returning to her home from school and followed her through the woods and attacked her. He sought to escape but was captured by a sheriff's posse.

Walter Roe Begins Chaingang Sentence

ATLANTA, Sept. 19. (AP)—Walter Roe, North Georgia Negro whose name figured in the recent gubernatorial campaign, today was assigned to the Heard county chaingang.

Roe was convicted of criminal assault on a Bartow county woman and sentenced to death. Two governors, including Governor Talmadge refused clemency.

9-20-34

Later Judge Claude Pittman, one of Talmadge's two opponents in the last campaign, said new evidence showed the facts did not warrant the verdict and permitted Roe to plead guilty to an assault charge, giving him the maximum penalty of 20 years.

Roe escaped shortly after being sent to the chaingang and was recaptured near Dalton two weeks ago.

Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Georgia

4711

PUBLIC DEBATE ON WALTER ROE RAPE CASE IS SCHEDULED TODAY

Telegraph
8-11-34

Many Politicians to Hear Ingram-Mitchell Discussion at Cartersville

Macon, Ga.

CARTERSVILLE, Ga., Aug. 10 (AP) All political roads will lead into Cartersville tomorrow for the debate of the much discussed Walter Roe case between City Court Judge William A. Ingram and Solicitor General Mitchell of the Cherokee judicial circuit.

Injected into the campaign for governor early in the summer, the Roe case has been the subject of charges and counter charges, culminating in Solicitor Mitchell's challenge several days ago for a joint debate with Judge Ingram.

Judge Ingram accepted, set the time for 3 p. m., tomorrow, and invited both Governor Talmadge and Judge Claude Pittman and their friends, to hear it. Such a crowd is expected that special stands have been erected for the speakers and loud speakers have been installed.

Walter Roe, a Negro, was tried several years ago and convicted on a charge of criminally assaulting a Bartow county white woman. He was sentenced to death, and the record shows that both Governors Russell and Talmadge declined to grant him executive clemency. Later Judge Pittman, the trial judge, granted Roe a new trial, at which he was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment and later escaped.

Governor Talmadge has charged that Judge Pittman disregarded the evidence of a criminal attack in granting the new trial, while Judge Pittman has answered with the statement that the woman, the physician who attended her, and others testified she had not been criminally attacked, Judge Pittman has also said that the Negro was not responsible for his acts.

Supporters of the two men have picked up the case and used it as political material for both sides.

Not only interested voters, but many of the candidates for state house and other minor offices are expected to swell the crowd expected to attend the debate.

Kentucky

4712

Lynchings-1934
6

Legal Punishment for Rape.
6

YEARS FOR ATTACK

Commercial appeal

Gilbert Mitcherson, 27, Found Guilty at Cadiz, Ky.

2-2-34

PADUCAH, Ky., Feb. 1.—Gilbert Mitcherson, 27, was found guilty of attacking 9-year-old Lillie Edna Banister by a Trigg County grand jury at Cadiz yesterday and sentenced to 20 years in the penitentiary.

2-2-34

Similar charges face Ivan Mitcherson, 21. He is held in the Trigg County jail. No date for his trial has been set.

The youths are also accused of attacking Mrs. Vashti Banister, 54, mother of the girl, but were indicted only on the accusations of the daughter.

KENTUCKIAN TO HANG ON ASSAULT CHARGE

Commercial Appeal

DeBoe Convicted for Crime Against Grocer's Wife

7-20-34

PADUCAH, Ky., July 19.—William DeBoe, 23, of Paducah, was sentenced late this afternoon to be hanged when a jury in Livingston County circuit court found him guilty of assaulting the wife of a Livingston County grocer on the night of May 19. The jury was out five minutes.

DeBoe was jointly indicted with Ezra Davenport, alias George Taylor, 20, but was tried alone. Davenport, who is accused of aiding and abetting DeBoe, will be tried tomorrow. A special venire has been called for his trial.

Louisiana.

4713

Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.
see: Lynchings-Prevented.

Kil[illegible] Who Eluded Mob Death

* * *

Tw[illegible] Doomed Men Kiss On One-Way Trip

* * *

Sings As Gallows Trap Opens

SHREVEPORT, LA., May 18.—(AP)—With a song on his lips, Fred Lockhart, 38, lyncher, woman-assaulter and murderer, plunged through the gallows to his death here today for criminally assaulting and murdering a young bride-elect in April.

Advertiser

Almost simultaneously, two men were hanged at Gretna, across the river from New Orleans, for killing a grocery clerk in a holdup.

5-19-34

Lockhart, the paper butterfly and trinket vendor, who flashed his tinsel wares before the eyes of Mae Giffin, 15-year-old school girl, lured her from her home by promising her employment.

He admitted that he criminally attacked the girl, then, vexed at her resistance, stabbed her to death.

Montgomery

A crowd gathered hastily about the city's skyscraper courthouse with the jail atop, after Lockhart's confession became known, and officers with trained machine guns and tear gas bombs repulsed a howling mob of thousands of persons who sought to lynch the "butterfly man."

National guardsmen were called out to restore order. It was then that Lockhart admitted that his real name was D. B. Napier, and that he had escaped from a Georgia penal camp where he was serving a life term for a criminal attack.

Later, seeking comfort from the Bible, he told authorities that he had driven the automobile for the lynchers of Leo Frank in the sensational case in Georgia many years ago. Frank, the accused slayer of a young girl, was wrested from the State Prison.

"I know now how Frank felt when the mob battered down the doors," Lockhart said, discussing his narrow escape from the lynch-bent mob which sought him.

At Gretna, George Dallao and John Capaci kissed each other, waved farewells and went to their deaths on the same gallows within a half hour.

The men were convicted of riding with Charles Rabito, wholesale grocery clerk, who was Capaci's friend, and forcing him to a lonely road where he was shot and killed. Rabito was robbed of several thousand dollars he was taking to the bank for his firm.

Lockhart walked calmly to the gallows today, singing snatches from "The Old Devil's Mad," and "I Am Glad Hallelujah."

He wrote letters to his common-law wife who lived with him in a dilapidated house in the hobo jungle, and completed his "life history," which he handed to the sheriff, asking that copies be given to ministers.

He was cheered by the arrival yesterday of his nephew, C. W. Napier, 20, of Cordele, Ga., Lockhart's former home.

His execution was witnessed by Charles and Leslie Peters, two half-brothers of the slain girl.

In his final statement from the scaffold, Lockhart asked, and received, forgiveness from the family of his victim.

The trap was sprung under him at 12:13 p.m. and he was pronounced dead 13 minutes later.

The necks of Dallao and Capaci were almost severed by the force of their drop.

An official witness fainted.

As Dallao was being led past Capaci's cell to the gallows, Capaci reached out, drew him near, and said, "Kiss me, George."

The men kissed.

They had been at odds with each other since their trial, in which each accused the other of firing the shot that killed the grocery clerk.

Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment for Rape

Maryland

4714

NEGRO TO BE HANGED FOR ATTACK ON GIRL

ROCKVILLE, Md., Dec. 1. (AP)—Alexander Jones, 35, negro, was sentenced to be hanged following his conviction in circuit court today on a charge of criminally assaulting a 15-year-old Washington girl.

Life Term for Man in Frederick, Md., Assault Case

William Carter Is Sentenced After Trial Lasting Only 12 Minutes.

N.A.A.C.P. OBSERVER CALLS TRIAL FAIR

Thurgood Marshall Says Accused Not Railroaded.

Afro-American

(Special to the AFRO)

FREDERICK, Md.—Sentence of life imprisonment was imposed on William Carter, 22, who was found guilty of assault with intent to rape Geraldine Kreh, white, playground instructor, in the circuit court here Monday.

12-15-34

Carter, who has been confined in the Baltimore city jail for safekeeping since his arrest, was returned to Frederick for trial.

Tried Behind Closed Doors

No disturbance attended the trial which was held behind closed doors. Only twelve minutes was taken up by the defense attorneys appointed by the court. Carter was faced with two confessions he admitted having signed. One of the confessions, however, was admittedly obtained under duress, witnesses testified.

The alleged attack took place on Hallowe'en night in a local park where the accused is said to have assaulted the young woman as she was passing through the shrubbery back of the tennis court.

The woman was badly beaten about the face and body and sustained a broken jaw in the fracas. She is said to have escaped and later notified police.

Says He Had Date

On the stand, Carter declared that he had a date in the park with Bertha Dotson and was waiting for her when he heard the white woman approaching.

He admitted that he had been drinking and could not account for his actions other than to say that he was under the influence of liquor.

James Mahammitt, who was first arrested in connection with the assault, was not called by either the prosecution or defense.

Calls Case Fair

Thurgood Marshall, Baltimore attorney, who observed the case in behalf of the AFRO-AMERICAN and the N.A.A.C.P., reported that he was well satisfied that Carter had been given a fair trial.

Mr. Marshall declared that he found no need to participate in the trial, although he had been extended that courtesy by Justice Guy K. Motter and Patrick M. Schnauffer, both white, who were appointment by the court.

The case was heard by Chief Judge Hammond Urner and Associate Judges Arthur D. Willard and Charles W. Woodward. They passed sentence after an hour and a half's deliberation.

Mississippi.

Lynchings - 1934
6
Legal Punishment for Rape.
6

4715

MEMPHIS, TENN.
PRESS-SCIMITAR

MAR [illegible] 1934

Legalized Lynching

Some folks like to waste time doing things that are worse than useless.

The Mississippi Senate has passed a bill to enable the sheriff of any county to appoint any citizen of the state a deputy to perform an execution.

The bill's aim is to give the sheriff of De Soto County the right to appoint the father of the victim of three negroes as a deputy to spring the death trap.

The author of the bill ought to be content with the orderly and solemn hanging of these three negroes.

To turn the job over to the father of the victim is to lift the execution from the realm of deliberate justice to that of passionate revenge.

Such a bill is not good for Mississippi and it is not good for the family that has suffered.

We hope the Legislature will kill the bill.

It would change an orderly hanging to a legalized lynching.

Legislature Kills Father's Chance To Spring Trap

Advertiser

3-14-34

Montgomery, Ala.

JACKSON, MISS., March 13.—(AP)—A "hangman" bill designed to remove legal obstructions preventing Clyde Collins from springing the death trap on a trio of negroes sentenced to be executed at Hernando Friday for criminally assaulting his 17-year-old daughter, was killed in the Lower House of the Mississippi Legislature today.

The House judiciary committee, before which the Senate-approved measure was pending, unanimously recommended it "do not pass."

Adjt. Gen. Thomas Grayson, who will command a detachment of Mississippi national guardsmen assigned to accompany the condemned negroes to Hernando to protect them against any uprising, announced tonight that the executions will be carried out in accordance with the law.

Gen. Grayson said Collins "is satisfied" with the arrangements, but declined to reveal what arrangements have been made in view of the judiciary committee's action.

Atty. Gen. Greek L. Rice has ruled that under existing statutes sheriffs or deputy sheriffs are the only persons qualified to perform legal executions. The "hangman" bill would have authorized sheriffs to deputize any citizen in the State, paving the way for Collins to qualify as a hangman. He resides in Marshall County and the executions are to be performed in DeSoto County.

Gen. Grayson, who was in charge of some 300 national guardsmen who escorted the negroes to Hernando three weeks ago for their trial, declared that he probably will use "more troops than we had anticipated for the return trip in view of recent developments."

Finding of a "pistol" fashioned from a tobacco tin and two crudely whittled dirks in the cells of the negroes here last night by jail attaches, leading to the belief the trio had planned a bold escape plot, were the "developments" referred to by Gen. Grayson.

Gen. Grayson declared mobilization orders were being written tonight, but refused to disclose how many men were being ordered out or the hour they will leave Jackson for Hernando.

"There will be enough troops there to dissuade any persons from attempting to take the negroes away from the sheriff," he said. "We never know when we have too many State troops, but we could easily, and tragically, find out that he had too few."

Gen. Grayson, accompanied by Maj. T. B. Birdsong, of Clarksdale, will leave Jackson late tonight for Hernando to inspect conditions there personally. "We are going to take every precaution," he said.

Crowd Sings 'Bye, Bye, Blackbirds' As Negroes Are Buried After Hanging

Advertiser

3-17-34

Montgomery Ala.

HERNANDO, MISS., March 16.—(AP)—A grim hangman sent three young negroes plunging into eternity here today as Mississippi justice exacted the supreme penalty for assault on a 17-year-old school girl.

Crying out in anguished prayer for forgiveness, mournfully chanting the hymns which every Southern negro knows, they were led to a steel trap in the county jail where, one by one, their necks were broken on the gallows.

The bodies were placed in cheap gray coffins and taken to the county poor farm nearby. Twenty cars fell in line. At the crest of a hill, a huge hole awaited.

"Throw 'em in," came from some in the crowd. Sheriff Roscoe Lauderdale, who had enacted the stern role of hangman, called for silence.

The coffins were lowered into the grave. Some in the crowd sang snatches of songs. Somebody started "Bye, bye, blackbirds." Others joined in.

The grave was quickly filled with dirt. A piece of wood, without inscription and without crosspiece, was stuck at the head of the grave.

The crowd dispersed. The 200 National Guardsmen who had escorted the negroes here from Jackson, Miss., in the darkness of early morning, returned to the automobiles and buses in which they had made the trip.

The guardsmen, carefully guarding their plans, had rushed the negroes into Hernando County shortly after 4 a.m., several hours in advance of the train on which they had announced they would make the trip.

As a consequence, only a scattered few civilians were about when Adjt. Gen. Thomas Grayson marched into the jail building with his prisoners.

Gen. Grayson paused to shake hands with Clyde Collins, of Holly Springs, father of the attack victim. Sheriff Lauderdale put his arm round Mr. Collins and together they climbed the steps behind the troopers and prisoners.

A bill to permit Mr. Collins to serve as executioner was killed in a committee of the Mississippi House of Representatives, but he witnessed the hanging of the negroes.

Isaac Howard, 25, was the first negro to die.

"Tell others of my kind never to attack none who don't belong to them," he said, as a black hood was placed over his head. "I believe God will save me in my dying hour from sin."

He sang. The song grew louder as the time of death neared.

"I'll meet you on the other shore—I'll meet you on the other shore."

Sheriff Lauderdale pulled the long lever and Howard's body fell through.

Ernest McGehee, 23, followed him in death. He, too, sang and prayer as he marched to his death.

The ordeal was hard for Johnny Jones, 23, the third Memphis negro.

"I want to warn others of my race—" he paused. "I wish some of them were here to see how we go. It's awful."

A short while later he, too, was gone.

The negroes confessed they boarded an automobile in Memphis the night of Dec. 27, and attacked the school girl after forcing her uncle to drive them just across the Tennessee line into DeSoto County, Miss. They were indicted, tried, and sentenced to be hanged Feb. 12 as National Guardsmen maintained order in the face of a threatening crowd.

The negroes were held at Jackson for safekeeping until today.

On their trip here from Jackson, they pooled their last 15 cents and bought candy.

DRAWS LIFE FOR ASSAULT

Clarksdale Farmer Found Guilty of Mistreating Girl

Commercial Appeal

3-16-34

Memphis, Tenn.

CLARKSDALE, Miss., March 15—W. C. Jenkins, 21, young farmer was found guilty by a jury late Thursday afternoon of criminal assault upon a 21-year-old girl living near this city and was sentenced to life imprisonment. The jury deliberated only [illegible] minutes. They disagreed as to his punishment and Judge W. A. Alcorn pronounced the life sentence, which was mandatory under the law.

When asked whether he had anything to say before sentence was imposed, [illegible] said:

"Yes, your honor, I am not guilty of the charge."

Judge Alcorn replied that he had been given a fair trial, had competent counsel and, under the law, he must impose the life sentence. Attorneys indicated that an appeal would be taken.

The trial has been in progress here for four days. All spectators were barred by Judge Alcorn during the testimony.

Huntsville, Ala., Times
March 13, 1934

Misdirected Revenge

The Mississippi legislature has been debating a bill which would give the father of a girl, who was attacked by three negro men, the right to spring the trap when those men are hanged for their crime.

It is perfectly easy to understand the sentiment back of such a bill.

Furthermore, it can be argued that since the three negroes are to be hanged anyway, it can make little difference to them who actually does the hanging, so long as it is carried out in the legal manner.

Nevertheless, it ought to be pointed out that such a move goes directly opposite to the whole theory of the capital punishment law.

In theory, that law has nothing to do with the motive of revenge. It is society's means of protecting itself.

If it is to be endurable, it must be operated without passion or rancor.

To inject into it the touch of private vengeance is to pervert it at its very foundations.

RICHMOND, VA.
TIMES DISPATCH

MAR 15 1934

In the Interest of Decency

SOME time ago the Mississippi Senate passed a bill under which the father of a white girl who had been attacked by a Negro would have been permitted to spring the trap in the hanging of his daughter's assailant.

This action was widely denounced as lacking in the element of propriety, to say the least of it.

Yesterday the judiciary committee of the House came to the rescue of Mississippi. By unanimous vote, the bill was reported unfavorably, which had the effect of killing the measure. The hanging will be conducted tomorrow under normal conditions.

There are many Americans who do not believe in capital punishment at all. There are many times fewer who would make of it a means for personal vengeance. If a man is to be executed for his sins against society, let the execution be carried out with the utmost degree of detachment. The personal element should be frowned upon at all times.

Bradenton, Fla., Herald
March 18, 1934

Not The Law's Intent

The three negro assailants of the Mississippi girl who were convicted of criminally attacking her have been legally executed, but without the scaffold trap having been sprung by her father as was proposed in legislation debated by the Mississippi legislature and even passed by the senate branch of the assembly.

But for a house committee's action in killing the bill the father would have been permitted privileges the law never intended and would have converted a legal execution into something little short of plain murder. The stigma that would have been Mississippi's would have been years in wearing off.

It isn't the least difficult to understand the father's feelings but the law doesn't permit its execution to be made a personal matter, for the gratification of personal wishes when those wishes are steeped in the blackest of hatred. In a sense the proposal, had it been carried out would have constituted legalized lynching. As it was the case was concluded with the hanging in an entirely impersonal manner, as the law intended.

And yet the proposal in all its impossibility was not without a measure of value. It shows the devotion of parent to child which suggests the stability of the home which is the bed rock of our government and civilization itself. It would have been wrong for the father to have been permitted to become the executioner of the trio. But there was nothing wrong in him wanting to occupy this role.

[redacted]

Legal Hangings in the South

Not as bad as ~~lynchings~~, but quite as morbid, is the manner in which Negroes are legally hung in some of the Southern states. At a recent public hanging of three young fellows who had attacked a white girl, the executions were attended by a large crowd. The father of the girl was permitted to take part in the work of doing the hanging. Joking and wisecracking were a part of the morning's work, with the witticisms fully reported in the newspapers.

This being the 20th century, something more typical of its supposed civilization might be expected in the South.

Advertiser
5-29-34
Montgomery
Ala

Negro Escapes Noose In Mississippi Ninth Time

GULFPORT, MISS., May 28.—(AP)—Tom Carraway, Jackson County negro, scheduled to walk to the scaffold at Pascagoula Thursday for attacking a white woman, has temporarily escaped the noose for the ninth time.

Bidwell Adam, counsel for Carraway, and former Mississippi lieutenant governor, announced today that Federal Judge E. R. Holmes, at Yazoo City, late Saturday granted a habeas corpus writ returnable to the Federal court at Biloxi, June 4, and had issued along with the writ an order restraining the sheriff of Hinds county, where Carraway is in jail, from turning the negro over to Jackson County authorities for execution next Thursday.

It was the ninth time that Carraway escaped the noose during the last two years since he was first sentenced to hang by the Jackson County Circuit Court. On one occasion, all preparations had been made for the execution and the negro was being led from his cell to the gallows when, through a writ of coram nobis issued by the Supreme Court, execution was halted.

Constitution
Atlanta, Ga

TOM CARRAWAY IS SAVED FOR TENTH TIME

JACKSON, Miss., June 14.—Tom Carraway, convicted April 7, 1931, in Jackson County, Miss., on a charge of rape on a white woman, obtained an injunction today from the United States District Court restraining the sheriff of Jackson County from hanging him on May 31st, the last execution day set for him, which is the tenth time that Carraway has been saved from the gallows, and it is said established a record.

At one time Carraway escaped death by only 3 or 4 minutes, when a long distance call from the Mississippi Supreme Court stopped the sheriff as he was leading Carraway to the gallows.

At that time all of the seven judges who had passed upon the case demanded his execution but now three of these same seven judges have reached the conclusion that he should have a new trial.

The petition for a writ of habeas corpus now pending in the U. S. District Court charges that Carraway's conviction was in violation of the 6th and 14th amendments to the U. S. Constitution, and that the attorney who represented Carraway when he was first convicted was incompetent, afraid to make the proper defense for fear of mob violence and that he therefore laid down on the job.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has rendered invaluable aid to Carraway. S. D. Redmond, counsel for Carraway, says that he has great faith in the ultimate acquittal of his client. Attorney S. R. Redmond of St. Louis is associate counsel.

[redacted]

LEGAL REVENGE NOW POSSIBLE

The state of Mississippi is about as "down south" as any state in this nation can be. Consequently as in other southern states feeling against negroes runs high, especially if the negroes get into any mixup with white people. Perhaps this explains to some extent the somewhat curious law just passed by the Mississippi legislature which will be in effect in time to permit a father to execute justice on the negroes who assaulted his daughter.

The new Mississippi law authorizes the sheriff of any county in which a sentence of death is to be executed in a capital case to appoint a resident citizen of the state to execute the sentence. Under this law C. W. Collins will spring the trap to hang the three negroes found guilty of the crime that southerners regard as the most foul. As a matter of fact, the three negroes confessed to the attack on the high school girl and were indicted, tried, convicted and sentenced all within three hours as a result.

Running true to form a Mississippi mob at one time threatened to lynch the guilty men, but were deterred, it is said, by a letter from Collins saying he had been promised that he would be allowed to execute them. The sheriff then ascertained that he would not be allowed to delegate his duties and this prompted the drafting of the new law now in effect.

Now it will be possible for a person in Mississippi to take legal revenge an anyone who has wronged him. Provided, of course, that the law finds the individual guilty. Whether this new law will have any effect in stopping lynchings in Mississippi remains to be seen.

Lynchings - 1934
Legal Punishment for Rape

Mississippi

4716

ATTACKER GIVEN LIFE

HATTIESBURG, Miss., Jan. 19.—Joe Turner, negro, charged with criminal attack on a young girl, changed his plea of not guilty to a guilty charge, involving the capital penalty, but was sentenced by Judge W. J. [illegible] to spend the rest of his life in the penitentiary.

Counsel had been appointed by the court to defend him and the defense had entered a motion to quash the indictment found by the grand jury on technical grounds. The change of plea changed the complexion of the case.

Father Can't Hang Attackers Of Girl

2-24-34

JACKSON, MISS., Feb. 23—(AP)—Clyde Collins of Holly Springs, cannot legally spring the trap plunging to death three Memphis negroes sentenced to hang at Hernando March 16, for criminal assault on his 17-year-old daughter last December.

Attorney General Greek L. Rice issued an informal ruling to that effect late today after reports that DeSoto County authorities had agreed to permit Collins to act as executioner when the negroes are hanged.

The attorney general referred to a Mississippi Supreme Court ruling in a DeSoto County case, State against Nichols, in which the high tribunal held that deputyships are offices and therefore deputies sheriff must be qualified electors of the county in which they serve.

Collins is a resident of Marshall County and the negroes are to be executed in DeSoto County. Under the high court decision Sheriff Roscoe Lauderdale, recently named sheriff of DeSoto County, succeeding the late W. M. Birmingham, cannot legally deputize Collins, and under the law executions can be performed only by sheriffs or his deputies.

The negroes are in the county jail here awaiting removal to Hernando about the middle of March. They were convicted at a brief trial ten days ago while a large body of militiamen maintained order.

Father of Attacked Girl Will Spring Death Trap for Negroes

"I'll Do It With the Greatest of Pleasure," He Said Yesterday

Commercial Appeal
2-23-34
Memphis, Tenn.

Clyde Collins works at his bench in a Holly Springs garage with fierce anticipation in his heart these days.

He's going to spring the trap at Hernando the morning of March 16 and send to eternity the three Memphis negroes who brutally attacked his 17-year-old daughter the night of last Dec. 27.

"I'll do it with the greatest of pleasure," he said grimly yesterday.

Carry Out Wishes

That was when a reporter called him to tell him that, according to County Attorney Gerald Chatham of DeSoto County, Sheriff Roscoe Lauderdale would carry out the wishes of Sheriff W. M. Birmingham, who died two days after the trial of the negroes. Governor Conner appointed Mr. Lauderdale, who had been Mr. Birmingham's chief deputy, sheriff last week.

It had been understood that Sheriff Birmingham was planning to deputize Mr. Collins to spring the trap.

"As long as I am sheriff, Mr. Birmingham's policies and wishes will be carried out," Mr. Lauderdale told Mr. Chatham. Mr. Birmingham died a martyr to his duty. The nervous strain of the tense situation at Hernando immediately before and during the trial Feb. 12 when 400 national guards with machine guns and tear gas held a threatening crowd from the courthouse yard, brought on a heart attack, and the sheriff died the morning of Feb. 14.

Springing the trap will afford Mr. Collins only a small measure of consolation for the grief he has been through, though, he said.

"Man, you can't imagine what I've been through," he said yesterday. "But it'll be a great hour for me when I give those brutes their death."

Held at Jackson

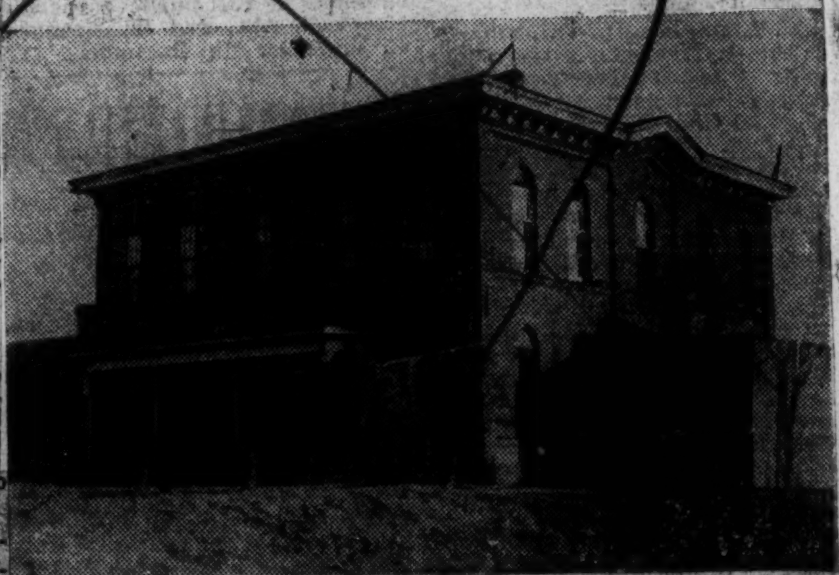
The negroes are Isaac Howard, Johnny Jones and Ernest McGhee. They are in the Hinds County jail at Jackson for safe keeping, and national guards will accompany them when they are taken back to Hernando for the execution.

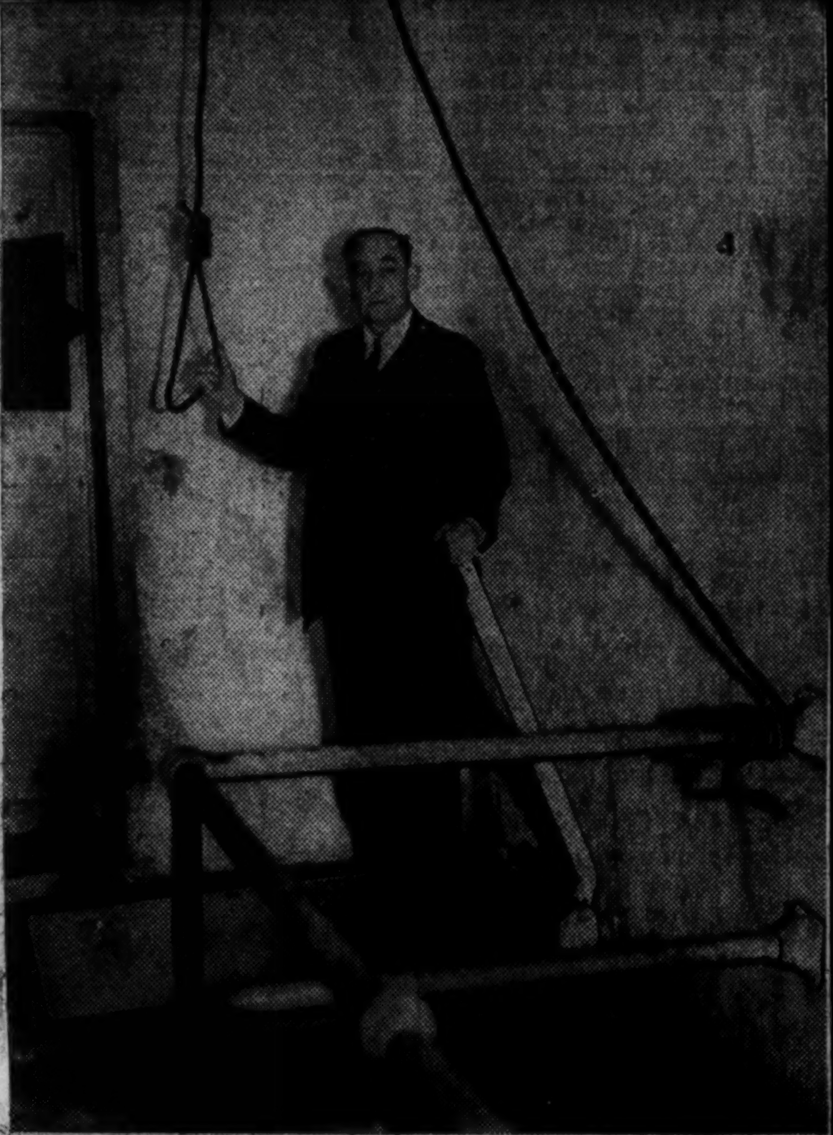
Under Mississippi law, the hanging can take place any time between 12:01 a.m. and 11:59 p.m., March 16. Mr. Chatham said that 10 o'clock in the morning is the customary hour. It will take more than an hour to hang three men, as all the legal and medical formalities have to be gone through separately for each prisoner.

Only about 50 persons will see the execution, for the space around the staircase gallows in the Hernando jail is small. Mr. Collins will stand at the head of the stairway where the steel trap is built in the landing, in plain view of the grilled doorway of the main cell block. The trap is operated by a lever, and Mr. Collins will be only about 18 inches from the negroes as he pulls the lever. The rope hangs from an iron ring in the concrete ceiling and the victim drops about 15 feet to the bottom of the stairway below.

The three negroes were arrested in Memphis New Year's Day and promptly confessed. The Memphis police solved in four days the crime that started at dusk Dec. 27 at Lamar and Parkway when the negroes jumped on the running board of the car in which the little Collins girl was riding with her uncle, G. A. Collins of Myrtle and her aunt, Mrs. Ruth Jackson of Memphis. The assault took place in a lonely field just across the Mississippi line off Chulahoma Road.

Where Negroes Will Hang





Where Clyde Collins will hang the three negroes who brutally attacked his 17-year-old daughter. Above is the Hernando jail, and below is the gallows at the head of the narrow stairway. Jailer G. T. Thomas is holding the noose and has his hand on the lever that springs the trap at his feet. The victims will drop 15 feet to the bottom of the stairway below. The door in front of the gallows leads directly to the main cell-block. (Staff Photo by Bruner)

Commercial Appeal 2-23-34 Memphis Tenn.

Father of Attack Victim May Be Executioner for Negroes

Clyde Collins May Spring Trap March 16—Roscoe Lauderdale Named DeSoto Sheriff

Commercial Appeal

2-20-34

Clyde Collins, father of the Holly Springs, Miss., High School girl who was assaulted by three negroes, may spring the trap that will send them to their deaths March 16 at Hernando.

This was learned yesterday as Governor Conner appointed Roscoe Lauderdale sheriff of DeSoto County to succeed Sheriff W. N. Birmingham, who died suddenly last Wednesday.

Mr. Lauderdale was chief deputy under Sheriff Birmingham, and will hold office until an election is called by the board of supervisors to fill the unexpired term.

Under Mississippi law, the sheriff may deputize an executioner. It is understood that an agreement is being considered to deputize Mr. Collins to exact the supreme penalty from the negroes.

Sheriff Birmingham succumbed to a heart attack induced by the nervous strain of the trial at Hernando a week ago in which the three Memphis negroes pleaded guilty and were sentenced to hang. They are Isaac Howard, Johnny Jones and Ernest McGhee.

They kidnaped the girl and her uncle and aunt in Memphis and forced them to drive into DeSoto County, where the crime was committed Dec. 27.

An effort was made to have the widow or daughter of Sheriff Birmingham named as his successor but Governor Conner decided that because of the unrest manifested at the trial it would be unwise to appoint a woman sheriff.

National Guard troops, called out during the trial, will guard the negroes when they are transported from Jackson to Hernando for the execution.

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3 NEGROES TO HANG, WHITE MAN GETS 60 DAYS FOR RAPE

Cal

2-23-34

HERNANDO, Miss.—(ANP)—Three men, Ernest McGhee, 23, Johnny Jones, 23, and Isaac Howard, 25, all of Memphis, were convicted of rape last week and sentenced to be hanged March 16.

At the same time that three Negroes were sentenced to die, a white physician in Little Rock, Ark., was fined $300 and given a 60-day jail term for the rape of a 12-year-old colored girl. In San Antonio during the same week a white lieutenant was tried on charges of raping a prominent white woman and was acquitted.

The three men admitted the attack on a 17-year-old white girl, Myrtle Collins, on Jan. 27. Negro citizens of Hernando, along with white citizens, deplore the crime, but point out the injustice of a double standard penalty for the same crime, one for whites and the other for Negroes.

"It's all right," they muse, "but there would be a way to keep from killing those men if they were white, or if the girl had been colored, or if the men had been white and the girl colored. Those colored boys broke the law all right and they should be punished, but we just have to think about the funny way the law is made to work."

During the course of the four-hour trial, a mob of would-be lynchers gathered. It cost Mississippi $5,000 to send 400 soldiers to Hernando to prevent a lynching.

HOUSE WILL ACT ON "HANGING BILL"

Commercial Appeal

Collins Measure Has Already Been Passed By Senate

3-9-34

JACKSON, Miss., March 8.—(AP)—Mississippi's "hanging bill" drafted to enable Clyde Collins of Holly Springs to hang three negroes convicted of criminally assaulting his 17-year-old daughter, tonight was ready for action by the House. The measure, approved by the Senate, was sent from the office of the secretary of the House clerk late today.

House leaders advocating passage of the bill as a reward for "the man who stopped the mob at Hernando," said that the measure would be deferred to a committee tomorrow and an effort made to get immediate approval.

Conner Hasn't Read Bill

Governor Conner today said that he had not read the bill nad had not decided whether he would sign or veto it, if passed.

During Senate debate on the bill, proponents contended that it should be approved because Collins consented "to let the law take its course" at the trial of the negroes at Hernando three weeks ago "with reluctance" and only after Adj. Gen. Thomas Grayson of the National Guard had promised to obtain permission for the father to spring the trap at the execution, March 16, at Hernando.

Passage of the bill, they argued, would enable the promise to be carried out, since Collins is not a resident of Desoto and cannot be legally sworn as a deputy to execute the sentence under present laws. The bill would permit deputizing of state resident.

Adjutant General Grayson talked to Collins and Sheriff W. M. Birmingham of DeSoto County a few days before the negroes were escorted by 300 National Guardsmen to Hernando for trial, and said he personally requested that Collins be given permission to hang the negroes.

Sheriff Birmingham died of heart failure aggravated by the trial, and his successor in office, met with an unofficial ruling by Atty. Gen. Greek L. Rice that he could not deputize a resident of another county to execute a death sentence, asked legislative authority to permit Collins to hang the negroes.

One of the supporters of the measure in the Senate was Senator H. Clay Collins, of Myrtle, a cousin of the assault victim. He said the father of the girl "wrote a note to the mob" after the converstion with the adjutant general, and that the latter told him Collins' act "had undoubtedly prevented bloodshed at the trial."

Bill To Let Assault Victim's Father Hang Negro Attackers Nears Okeh

Advertiser

3-9-34

Montgomery, Ala.

JACKSON, MISS., March 8—(AP)—Mississippi's "hanging bill" drafted to enable Clyde Collins of Holly Springs, Miss. to hang with his own hands three negroes convicted of criminally assaulting his 17-year-old daughter, tonight was ready for action by the lower House of the State Legislature.

The measure, approved yesterday by the Senate, was sent from the office of the secretary to the House clerk late today.

Leaders of the lower chamber advocating passage of the bill as a reward for "the man who stopped the mob at Hernando," said the measure would be referred to a committee tomorrow and an effort made to get immediate House approval.

Gov. Sennett Conner today said he had not read the bill and had not decided whether he would sign or veto it.

During Senate debate on the bill, proponents contended that it should be approved because Collins consented "to let the law take its course" at the trial of the negroes at Hernando three weeks ago "with reluctance" and only after Adjt. Gen. Thomas Grayson of the National Guard had promised to obtain permission for the father to spring the trap at the execution March 16, at Hernando.

Passage of the bill, they argued, would enable the promise to be carried out, since Collins is not a resident of De Soto and cannot be legally sworn in as a deputy to execute the sentence under present laws. The bill would permit deputizing any State resident.

Informed today of the progress of the "hanging bill" through the Legislature the Holly Springs father refused to comment on his reputed intentions to hang the prisoners and was quoted as saying "it doesn't make any difference to me whether I do or not."

Adjt. Gen. Grayson talked to Collins and Sheriff W. M. Birmingham of Desoto County a few days before the negroes were escorted by 300 national guardsmen to Hernando for trial, and said he personally requested that Collins be given permission to hang the negroes.

Sheriff Birmingham died of a heart attack aggravated by the trial, and his successor in office, met with an unofficial ruling by Atty. Gen. Greek L. Rice that he could not deputize a resident of another county to execute a death sentence asked legislative authority to permit Collins to hang the negroes.

The bill now awaiting House action would authorize a county sheriff to swear in as a deputy "any resident of the State."

One of the supporters of the measure in the Senate was Senator H. Clay Collins of Myrtle, Miss., a cousin of the assault victim. He said the father of the girl "wrote a note to the mob" after the conversation with the adjutant general, and that the latter told him Collins's act "had undoubtedly prevented bloodshed at the trial."

Father Of Negro's Victim Will Spring Trap At Execution

Birmingham

Ala.

JACKSON, Miss.—(AP)—Over strong opposition, the state Senate Wednesday passed a bill enabling the father of an upstate girl victim of three Negro assaulters to hang the convicted trio at Hernando March 16. The vote was 19 to 16.

Supporters of the measure told the Senate that an agreement had been made with the father by Adjutant General Thomas Grayson, of the National Guard, to ask the sheriff of DeSoto County to permit the father to spring the trap if he, a resident of Holly Springs, would prevent a mob from attempting to seize the Negroes at their trial at Hernando three weeks ago.

Senator H. Clay Collins, of Myrtle, cousin of the assault victim, told the Senate that the father "consented with reluctance to let the law take its course" and "wrote a note to the mob."

As a result of this action, Sheriff W. M. Birmingham, of DeSoto County, agreed to let the girl's father hang the Negroes, Collins said, but after the sheriff's death from heart failure, shortly after the trial, his successor was informed of an unofficial ruling by the attorney general that a sheriff could not deputize a resident of another county to execute a prisoner.

The bill passed by the Senate Wednesday would enable a sheriff to deputize a citizen of any county to spring the trap at an execution. Senator Earl Richardson, author of the measure, explained that it was intended only to apply to the Hernando case and that he would introduce a bill March 17, day after the execution, to repeal the act.

The bill now goes to the House.

Lynchings-1934

Legal Punishment for Rape.

Mississippi.

4716 4717

ATTACKERS MAY DIE IN PUBLIC HANGINGS

Commercial Appeal

Three Negroes Now Being Held in Hinds County Jail

2-10-34

TROOPS WILL GUARD TRIO

Memphis, Tenn.

State Senator Introduces Bill Taking Executions Out of County Jails and Making Them Public

Hangings in public may become the law of Mississippi in time for execution of Ernest McGhee, Isaac Howard and Johnny Jones, negroes who criminally assaulted a 16-year-old Holly Springs girl, Dec. 27, according to plans being made by state officials it was learned yesterday as the negroes were taken to Jackson by airplane. They are now held in the Hinds County jail.

The bill taking hangings out of county jails into the view of the public has been introduced by State Senator Collins.

To make sure that McGhee, Howard and Jones are the first to pay with their lives in a legal, public execution, a company of the Mississippi militia will convoy them from Jackson to Hernando, guard them through the trial which probably will be completed in half a day, and take them back to Jackson until the execution.

Extra Precaution

The precaution against mob spirit that has kept the three negroes in the Shelby County jail more than a month, rather than in the Hernando jail, became an abundance of precaution yesterday as they left the care of Sheriff Bacon.

Six automobile loads of officers armed with tear gas, shot guns, rifles and pistols accompanied the negroes to the Memphis Municipal Airport. Gas in high pressure tubes, gas in hand grenades, more gas in metal black-jacks and still more gas in cartridges like shotgun shells was distributed in the cars.

Howard, crying and praying—McGhee, with his hands shaking in fright, and Jones, calmly asking for a light for his cigaret, were taken from the fifth-floor cell-block they alone have occupied, and handcuffed.

Each was put into an automobile with three armed deputies. Leading the procession to the airport was an automobile carrying Sheriff Bacon and Sheriff W. M. Birmingham, of DeSoto County, with Charles B. Garibaldi, chief deputy sheriff, at the wheel. Deputies were Bob Ezell, Vernon Brigardello, A. S. Buford, Hugh Bertschi, W. C. Cox, John Friddle, L. J. Davis, W. H. Kay, J. G. Galloway and D. R. Hopper.

As a rear guard Will Lee, chief of police, and police detectives A. O. Clark, A. L. Moore, Pete Wiebenga, Wilbur Miller and Bill Raney accompanied the negroes. Gerald Chatham, prosecuting attorney of DeSoto County, and Will Gerber, first assistant attorney general of Shelby County, assisted.

Stop At Scene

At Lamar and Parkway the procession halted for a red traffic light and the three negroes again saw the scene of the hold-up which preceeded the assault. As the automobiles came into view beside the airport the propeller of the waiting J. O. Dockery sixplace Travel-air was spun, and when the automobiles had reached the plane it was ready to take-off.

Sheriff Bacon turned the negroes over to Sheriff Birmingham who immediately gave them into the care of Major T. B. Birdson, chief of police of Clarksdale and head of the Mississippi militia.

H. B. Mitchell, the pilot, and Major Birdsong took seats in front. The negroes, their handcuffs connected by a chain, took passenger seats. They were quivering with fright.

Behind them sat Capt. V. S. Atkins, special deputy, with a new sub-machine gun.

The plane left at 8:58 o'clock, much to the relief of local officials who were cleared of responsibility as the plane circled southward toward Jackson. Prior claims of Tennessee to the three negroes for numerous hold-ups in Memphis and Shelby County will be waived on the basis of the elaborate precautions of Mississippi authorities to assure a legal trial and execution.

Sheriff Bacon and W. T. McLain, attorney general, have presented the statements made by the negroes to Mr. Chatham and talked with him to the witnesses, as well as the negroes, who again admitted guilt Saturday.

It is expected that the negroes will be indicted next Monday when court opens at Hernando, and that the trial will be held early in the week.

Leave It to the Law

Commercial Appeal

2-4-34

Memphis Tenn

Within the next few days three negroes held in the Memphis jail will be taken to Hernando, Miss., to be tried for a capital offense.

We have no interest in the negroes beyond wishing for them a speedy trial and a swift execution. Their voluntary confessions entitle them to that consideration.

We have a great deal of interest in Mississippi. Except for an imaginary line defining the political subdivision, we do not know where Tennessee ends and Mississippi begins.

We have pride in Mississippi's good name. We regret as much as anyone when any ill befalls the state of Mississippi. The good name of the state is worth infinitely more than the lives of three criminals. The state can not afford to permit these such individuals to provoke the fine citizenship of the adjoining counties into bringing shame upon their state and upon their own heads.

Mississippi's laws are adequate for the offense. Neither law nor lynching can go beyond administering the death penalty. The law will demand that justice be done. It will be done in the name of the state and in the name of society. The blood of the culprits should not be upon the hands of a law-abiding citizenship despite the provocation and indignation.

We urge that those who appreciate what it would mean to Mississippi to broadcast the gruesome details of a lynching, to counsel with and overcome the disposition of those who would take the law into their own hands.

Lynchings are revolting enough without the memory of after years. Such things leave an indelible impression. They are examples of excesses, characteristic of barbarism, which have no place in civilized society.

We appreciate fully the provocation, as well as the restraint that will be necessary to permit the orderly process of law. The culprits should not have the satisfaction of avoiding the state's demand for their lives. They are not worthy to bring shame upon the people of Mississippi or a blight upon the name of the state.

Gallows Awaits Three Negroes

Advertiser

2-13-34

Mississippi Mob Prevented From Seizing Attackers By National Guardsmen

Montgomery Ala.

HERNANDO, MISS., Feb. 12.—(AP)—Three negroes who confessed to criminal assaults on a 16-year-old school girl late today were sentenced to die on the gallows here March 16 as an angry crowd of men sought in vain to enter the courthouse and seize the prisoners.

Several groups of men, muttering threats against the negroes, were still in evidence about town as Adjt. Gen. Thomas J. Grayson and a detachment of National Guardsmen planned to remove the prisoners to Jackson during the night to avoid possible disturbances.

At least two attempts were made to break through the barbed-wire entanglements erected about the courthouse by National Guardsmen, and one elderly man cut his hand against the fence.

"Hell, no, it wasn't an accident," he said when asked how he received the wound. "We want those negroes."

Three hundred and fifty heavily-armed militiamen stood on guard duty all day.

Gen. Grayson said the most serious threat against the prisoners was halted when one agitator was taken to the City Jail, not far from the Courthouse. Part of the crowd threatened the City Jail in an attempt to free the man, but abandoned their attempt as they looked at the drawn bayonets and tear gas bombs held by the soldiers.

The conviction of the negroes, Ernest McGehee, 23; Johnny Jones, 23, and Isaac Howard, 25, came swiftly. A detachment of 150 guardsmen arrived with them early today in a steel-barred train in which the trip was made from Jackson, where they had been held for safekeeping.

The negroes were taken to a cell at the courthouse. Shortly before noon the grand jury returned indictments against them. They pleaded guilty. Since the State demanded the death penalty, a trial was necessary.

The jury was out seven minutes and returned with a verdict "guilty as charged."

The negroes had confessed boarding an automobile in which the girl and an uncle, G. A. Collins, of Myrtle, Miss., and an aunt, who lived in Memphis, were riding the night of Dec. 27. The aunt and uncle were robbed. The attacks on the girl occurred in Mississippi, just across the State line from Memphis.

Gen. Grayson said the crowd was "in an ugly mood." He said the father of the girl mounted a platform and pleaded with the crowd to "let justice take its course." He said he was "heartbroken" over the incident, but that he would leave vengeance to the courts.

However, Grayson said, but it was necessary to drive one crowd of 150 or more across the street when they threatened to break through the barbed-wire entanglements. Machine guns were trained on the crowd from courthouse balconies and officers with fixed bayonets patrolled the courthouse yards.

Three Memphis Officers to Appear Before Grand Jury at Hernando

INDICTMENTS CHARGE ASSAULT OF GIRL, 16

Commercial Appeal

Attack Occurred in Mississippi After Abduction of Trio in Memphis

2-12-34

Memphis Tenn

Three Memphis officers, Inspector Griffin, and Detective Sergt. Bill Raney and A. O. Clark will appear before the DeSoto County grand jury at Hernando this morning when indictments charging criminal assault will be asked against three negroes who attacked a 16-year-old Holly Springs high school girl on the night of Dec. 27.

Aside from the grand jury duty of these officers, Tennessee will have no part in the prosecution or punishment, although the trial might have been held in this state. The actual attack occurred in Mississippi, but the girl was abducted in Memphis. Legally it is termed a "continuing crime" and trial might have been held in either state.

Abducted

The girl, her aunt and uncle, Mrs. W. L. Jackson, 584 Alexander, and G. A. Collins, Myrtle, Miss., were abducted by the negroes who boarded Mr. Collins car at East Parkway and Lamar and forced him to drive into Mississippi just over the Tennessee line near the Chulahoma Road. Here the girl was attacked by each of the negroes.

The negroes, Ernest McGhee, 23, 53 West Trigg, Johnny Jones, 23, 1396 Erie, and Isaac Howard, 25, 1347 Erie, were arrested by detectives at their homes Jan. 1. The following day they confessed to the crime. They were placed in the county jail under special guard to prevent possible mob violence.

Last Monday morning, the negroes, under heavy guard, were taken to Jackson by plane.

MISS. SENATE IN UPROAR OVER NEGRO HANGINGS

"My Family Will Let the Law Take Its Course"—Senator.

MEN NOT YET TRIED FOR RAPE

"All We Can Do is Pray," AFRO Told.

By RALPH MATTHEWS
AFRO Staff Correspondent

JACKSON, Miss.—With their guilt or innocence still in the balance the legislative halls of the Mississippi state house here resounded with the oratory of Senator H. Clay Collins demanding a public hanging for three youths accused of rape Monday.

Afro-American

Senator Collins, who told the state senate that he was a relative of a white girl alleged to have been raped by the trio, proposed a bill providing for public hangings of Negroes convicted of rape. The present law provides that the hangings take place in private at the county seat where the prisoners were convicted.

2-17-34

The three men, Ernest McGhee, 23; Johnnie Jones, 33, and Isaac Howard, 25, all of Memphis, were returned to Mississippi by airplane and faced trial at Hernando, Miss., on February 13, at which time the national guard was called out by Governor Conner for protection.

Will Lay Off

In his argument Senator Collins told the senate that the alleged victim of the men was a relative of his.

"If you pass this bill," he roared, "my family will consent for the law to take its course.

"The governor," he added, "says this trial will cost the state of Mississippi ten thousand dollars if this bill is not passed."

Oppose Bill

Opposing the bill were Senators Taylor, Wiley Blair of Tupelo and Harper of Fayette, who argued that the bill proposed a "revolting" return to an old legal practice of public executions and that it would result in large crowds of morbidly curious at every hanging.

"This bill will make every Negro hanging in Mississippi a Roman holiday," Senator Blair warned, and Senator Harper asked if the passage of the bill "will not place an enormous burden on the shoulders of the trial judge who must decide whether the execution will be public or not?"

Senator Collins offered an amendment to make the executions public within the discretion of the trial judge, only in cases of criminal assault, but the proposed change was never brought to a vote.

Press Objects

The Jackson press leaped into the fray Tuesday with the following editorial comment in the Jackson Daily News:

It Might Make Racial "Martyrs" of Criminals Justly Condemned

A good deal of public and editorial misunderstanding seems to prevail as to the object and purposes of Senator Collins' bill to make legal hangings public at the discretion of the trial judge.

Advocates of the bill say the dual purpose is to discourage lynching and those crimes which more than any others inspire lynching in the South, the deterrent to be public hangings, after quick trials, as special warnings.

It is possible that discreet use of this authority by trial judges might accomplish this desirable purpose. We have our doubts based on knowledge of human nature.

If public hangings, in such special cases, acted as deterrents to these particular crimes, then logically, they would be equally effective in other cases. History however, argues against this.

Still another psychological factor, which debaters of this bill might well consider, is that public hangings would make "martyrs" and "heroes" of the victims among those inclined to sympathize with them, thus encouraging repetition of the crime which the hanging punished. Set the stage thus, with an audience of thousands, and many of the condemned criminals would be able to summon a swaggering bravado that would appeal dangerously to some of the very spectators the public execution was intended to impress and warn.

These same condemned criminals, hanged in private, denied such an audience and the spotlight, could summon no such braggadocio and false courage, and make no such dangerous appeal.

That's human nature, even human nature on the gallows.

Both houses would do well to go slow in considering this proposal, despite the unusual circumstances which make many of the members feel friendly and sympathetic toward the author.

Can Only Pray

When interviewed in the Hinds County jail the three men told the AFRO that all they could do now was pray" and asked the AFRO to ask the nation to pray for them.

"They told us that if we plead guilty we will get off with life," McGhee declared.

A white lawyer of Hernando was appointed to defend them. On Tuesday night five armed men visited the jail and demanded to see the men but were refused.

MEMPHIS, TENN.
COMMERCIAL APPEAL
FEB 12 1934

The State Comes First

Three negroes who committed a heinous offense [redacted] girl are being taken from Jackson to Hernando today under military escort. The escort's presence is to assure the functioning of the orderly processes of justice.

If the neighbors and friends of the prisoners' victim defer to the wishes of her family and retain a proper regard for the dignity and majesty of the state and its courts there will be no untoward incident which will justify the presence of the military.

The victim's father has added his voice to that of Mississippi authorities in pleading that the law be permitted to take its course. He is satisfied that the trial will be as speedy as is compatible with fairness; that there will be vigorous prosecution, and that there will be no unnecessary delay in executing whatever sentence is imposed.

In a public appeal for co-operation with legal forces, the father, speaking for all the members of his family, including the victim, says:

"We feel that it is better to let the law take its course, and regardless of our own heartaches, we ask that you co-operate in this matter."

If those against whom the outrage was directly committed feel that established processes are capable of fully avenging the crime, those less directly involved cannot, with logic, adopt a different attitude.

The family has already been done great injury. Disregard of their expressed desire for public co-operation with the law would only add greater injury and hurt.

The Hernando case offers a splendid opportunity for demonstrating the majesty of law and its punitive phase in all its awfulness.

It is hoped and believed that no impulse of passion will be permitted to attempt an obstruction of such demonstration.

MEMPHIS, TENN.
COMMERCIAL APPEAL
FEB 11 1934

FATHER OF VICTIM WANTS NO LYNCHING

Clyde Collins Pleads for Orderly Trial of Attackers

"Let the law take its course," Clyde V. Collins, father of the Mississippi schoolgirl criminally assaulted in December by three Memphis negroes, urged yesterday on the eve of the attackers' removal from Jackson to Hernando Miss., for trial.

Adjutant General Tom Grayson and State Senator I. E. Collins, of Myrtle, Miss., called on Mr. Collins yesterday at his home in Holly Springs and were given the following signed statement by him:

"Recognizing that every good citizen must look to the laws of our land for protection that our government may survive and despite the human emotions which swell up in our breasts when we think of the terrible crime committed by the negroes who are to be tried at Hernando Monday, we want to request that our friends, and all of you who have expressed interest and sympathy, will refrain from any act that will cause a reflection to come upon our state.

"Being assured that there will be no delay in the trial and that justice will be meted out promptly, and there being no evidence of delaying tactics, we feel that it is better to let the law take its course and regardless of our own heartaches, we ask that you co-operate with us in this matter. CLYDE V. COLLINS, 2-10-34."

The negroes are to be moved to Hernando early tomorrow under guard of 300 Mississippi national guardsmen.

Mississippi Bill To Give Father Right To Hang Girl's Assaulters

JACKSON, Miss., [illegible] 7.—(AP) Over strong opposition [illegible] state senate today passed [illegible] bill enabling the father of an [illegible] girl victim of three [illegible] assaulters to [illegible] the convicted [illegible] at Hernando March 16. The vote was 18 to 10.

Supporters of the measure told the senate that an agreement had been made with the father [illegible] Adjutant General Thomas [illegible] of the national guard, to [illegible] the sheriff of De Soto county to permit the father to spring the trap if he, a resident of Holly Springs, would prevent a mob from attempting to seize the negroes at their trial at Hernando three weeks ago.

Senator R. Clay Collins, of Myrtle, cousin of the assault victim, told the senate that the father "consented with reluctance to let the law take its course" and "wrote a note to the mob."

As a result of this action, Sheriff W. M. Birmingham, of DeSoto county agreed to let the girl's father hang the negroes, Collins said, but after the sheriff's death from heart failure, shortly after the trial, his successor was informed of an unofficial ruling by the attorney-general that a sheriff could not deputize a resident of another county to execute a prisoner.

The bill passed by the senate today would enable a sheriff to deputize a citizen of any county to spring the trap at an execution. Senator Earl Richardson, author of the measure, explained that it was intended only to apply to the Hernando case and that he would introduce a bill March 17, day after the execution, to repeal the act.

The bill now goes to the house.

Lynchings-1934

Legal Punishment for Rape

Mississippi.

4718

Scaffold, Evaded For 7 Times, Still Awaiting Negro

Advertiser
3-24-34
Montgomery
Ala.

JACKSON, MISS., March 23.—(AP)—Having been saved from the gallows seven times—including one occasion when he was actually lifted off the scaffold after the rope had been fitted around his neck—Tom Carraway, Jackson County negro, will go before the Mississippi Supreme Court for the fourth time Monday on an appeal from a death sentence for a criminal attack on a white woman.

Carraway, originally sentenced to hang after a trial in April, 1931, first appealed to the Supreme Court on "merits of the case." The death sentence was affirmed and a new execution date set. The then-Governor Theo Bilbo, then granted two reprieves, each time setting a new hanging date.

When Bilbo refused a third reprieve, and while Carraway was on the gallows, a writ of error coram nobis appeal was taken to the Supreme Court, which later set the writ aside.

The case then lay over until the next term of Jackson Circuit Court in October, 1932, when the negro was brought before Circuit Judge White for sentence. A motion for a new trial was then entered, and refused, and an appeal taken.

On the third trip to the Supreme Court, that tribunal again affirmed the lower court and set a new execution date.

The night before the execution was scheduled, Carraway's attorneys filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus in United States District Court, and obtained from Federal Judge Holmes an injunction to prevent the sheriffs of Hinds and Jackson Counties from removing Carraway from the Hinds Jail or executing him.

Judge Holmes then went on a vacation trip and when he returned, a motion for a new trial was filed in Jackson County Circuit Court.

Judge White refused to take jurisdiction until the Federal proceedings were dismissed, which course was then taken.

Judge White then heard the motion for a new trial but overruled it, and set the hanging for a date in December, but allowed an appeal to the Supreme Court with supercedeas. It is on this appeal that the case currently comes before the court for argument Monday.

Star

TERRE HAUTE
INDIANA

MAR 14 1934

MISDIRECTED REVENGE.

The Mississippi legislature has been debating a bill which would give the father of a girl who was attacked by three colored men the right to spring the trap when those men are hanged for their crime.

It is perfectly easy to understand the sentiment back of such a bill. Furthermore, it can be argued that since the three men are to be hanged anyway, it can make little difference to them who actually does the hanging, so long as it is carried out in the legal manner.

Nevertheless, it ought to be pointed out that such a move goes directly opposite to the whole theory of the capital punishment law.

In theory, that law has nothing to do with the motive of revenge. It is society's means of protecting itself.

If it is to be endurable, it must be operated without passion or rancour. To inject into it the touch of private vengeance is to pervert it at its very foundations.

BALTIMORE, MD.
MORNING SUN

MAR 14 1934

Vengeance, Not Judicial

Mississippi is in process of giving a demonstration of capital punishment under entirely wrong auspices and inspirations. The Senate of that state has before it a bill which, if passed, will permit the father of a high school girl to operate the gallows trap for the hanging of three Negroes charged with attacking her. The present statute requires the sheriff or other officer of the law to spring the trap. Such a change as proposed is in direct contravention of the sound theory of capital punishment. If the father of the outraged girl directs the execution, then the operation becomes a matter of personal vengeance rather than an example of orderly carrying out of a judicial sentence intended to deter others from crime. Entirely aside from any question of whether the three criminals should be hanged, a reasoned attitude eliminates those who are personally interested from any participation in executing the sentence.

ALBANY, N. Y.
NEWS

MAR 12 1934

Impersonal Justice

A BILL that would permit the father of the girl victim of three Negroes to spring the trap that hangs them has been introduced in the Mississippi Legislature and reported favorably by the County Affairs Committee of the Senate. The bill itself permits a county sheriff to designate any resident of the state to execute the death sentence but it is openly stated that its purpose is to permit the victim's father to spring the trap.

That may be retributive justice, and it may be some satisfaction to the father in this case, or in other cases, but it smacks of personal justice and justice should be impersonal. It is a natural human impulse, the desire for personal revenge, but under our system this is out of order. Of course, it is better than lynching, but isn't it in a way a form of lynching, of personal administration of punishment?

It would be far better not to permit the personal revenge spirit to enter into executions and keep justice impersonal always.

ENCOURAGING SIGNS

Call
3-23-34
Kansas City

Two heartening incidents happened last week which make us believe this old world is getting better after all. Down in Mississippi where a father had consented to legal punishment of the three men for raping his daughter but asked and the legislature was considering passing a law to let him be the hangman. It did not because the chairman of the committee to which the measure was referred before it could be voted on, refused to report before the time of the execution.

Mississippi has a bad record for lynchings. Intelligence is low in that state. Yet it had in it one man, the chairman of that legislative committee, who saw clearly that a law permitting the injured party to be the law's agency in punishing crime, made that act personal vengeance. Personal vengeance, whether at the hands of an illegal mob or a lawful executioner, is not civilization. Mississippi gives little aid to social progress, but it is encouraging to know that it realizes it ought to.

The other good news is the stand taken by the women of the Methodist Episcopal church South. They favor a federal anti-lynching law. Because the mob has hidden behind women's skirts, claiming that it acts in their defense, they must either be a screen for lawlessness or speak out.

Southern white women are not deceived by the excuses of lynchers. A million Negroes are blameless for one who commits rape. It is not reasonable to disregard the usual and let the unusual determine general policies. Time and again the white women of the South have made public declaration that they needed none of the false protection of lynchers. Only men capable of forming a mob to kill a fellow being would continue to insult them by going against their expressed wishes.

In the past the groups of white women who have denounced lynching and said they needed none of its bloody help have been the classes, the club and college women of the South. The M. E. church South is a cross section of all. Its position taken now is significant.

MERIDIAN, MISS.
STAR

MAR 18 1934

NO NEED FOR MOB

"Hang three negroes under cover of darkness."

The law exacts the ultimate in penalty as expiation for the ultimate in crime.

The father of the young white girl witnesses the triple execution in Hernando, Miss.

The blacks go to the gallows with prayers for forgiveness for their sins.

Whether or not we may sanction capital punishment for any offense against the social order, all of us agree that the execution of these three colored youths, in expiation for an attack upon a seventeen-year-old white girl, offers certain definite assurances:

That the law of Mississippi protects white womanhood against all ravages—

That justice is secure, without mob violence—

That, mobocracy is un-needed, where the law prevails.

The most effective answer to the "howl" of the mob pack lies in the execution through due process of legality of these three delta negro boys.

Thus we write a new and better chapter in our Mississippi history.

Negro's Execution Date Is Reset Seventh Time

Constitution

JACKSON, Miss., April 23.—(AP)—Tom Carraway, negro convicted of assault on a white woman in Jackson county, today had the date for his execution reset for the seventh time.

The Mississippi supreme court held that he must walk to the gallows on May 31. His hanging had been postponed seven times over a period of three years through gubernatorial action and court orders.

The high court also sentenced Pearlie Davis, convicted of murdering George Raftakes, Jackson restaurant owner, to be hanged on the same day.

4-24-34

EAST ST. LOUIS, ILL.
JOURNAL

MAR 11 1934

JUSTICE IN REVERSE

The quality of justice for Negroes in southern states is not one of the boasting points of these United States. It goes along in its own quiet way, and most of the country would be better satisfied if that should always be the case. For when southern justice breaks into the news it is almost always an example of justice in reverse.

The latest example comes out of the noble state of Mississippi. That state, it seems, has felt the stinging criticism of the rest of the country for southern lynchings. Eager to protect its good name and prevent another case of lynch rule, Mississippi has provided the most novel reason yet for observing the legal formalities. Three Negro youths sentenced to be hanged for an attack on a white girl were not lynched, it is said, because the girl's father had been promised he could spring the trap at a legal hanging.

This unusual notion of justice not only served to dissuade a Mississippi mob that formed for the purpose of lynching the youths, but it also sounded convincing to the Mississippi state Senate. The Senate, by a vote of 19 to 15, passed a special bill to permit the sheriff to carry out the execution in this manner.

In their eagerness to show their conformity to modern notions of law and order, the Mississippi citizens have displayed to the country their misconception of the principles of justice. Law in Mississippi is reverting to the medieval code of personal vengeance when the state steps aside for private citizens.

The principles of justice are better served when the law looks impartially upon each of its citizens, and punishments are administered for the safety of society—not to gratify any individual's blood lust.

NEGRO LOSES AGAIN IN FIGHT FOR LIFE

Caraway's Death Date Set for Eighth Time

Commercial Appeal

BY KENNETH TOLER
Commercial Appeal Staff Correspondent

JACKSON, Miss., April 23.—Two execution dates were set for May 31 by the supreme court today in rejecting the appeals of Tom Carraway, Jackson County, and Pearlie Davis, Hinds County. The only avenue of escape now available to the two negroes from hangman's noose is an executive order.

4-24-34

For Caraway, convicted of criminal assault, it is the eighth hanging date set, postponements having been granted over a period of three years through gubernatorial action and court orders.

Judge J. G. McGowen, in the controlling opinion from which Judges V. A. Griffith and W. D. Anderson dissented, stated that "this case appears to be no longer a trial of the appellant's case, but an investigation of the trial judge and the appellant's attorney.

"The entire record demonstrated that there is not now nor has there been sufficient evidence upon which to successfully predicate a motion for a new trial."

After Carraway had lost two appeals in the state courts, he went into federal court and secured an injunction against his execution. When the date passed, he dismissed the federal court plea, based on asserted mob threats and sought further relief in the state courts. As a result of today's decision, Carraway is expected to renew his federal court procedure.

Judge Anderson, in his dissenting opinion, stated that "in the light of the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the 'Scottsboro case,' I am confident that this appellant was denied due process of his trial.

"In fact," he added, "the evidence in this case shows a denial of due process stronger than it was in the 'Scottsboro cases.'"

Davis was convicted of murdering George Raftakes, Jackson restaurant owner during a holdup.

In a civil case, the court held that state highway commission to be not bound by any contract or agreement made by its director or any agents unless ratified by the commission and spread on the minutes. The case was an appeal by the Pearl Realty Company seeking to enforce a lease for quarters in the Tower building, from which the commission moved about a year ago to the Standard Life after securing an injunction forcing the Tower officials to permit them to use the elevators

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HARTFORD, CONN.
TIMES

MAR 13 1934

Governmental Realities.

We have heard many humiliating things about the occasional character of government in America, but this one rather hits a peak. In Jackson, Mississippi, last week, the state senate passed a bill enabling the father of a girl victim of three Negro assailants to hang the convicted trio at Hernando, March 16. Backers of the bill informed the senate that an agreement had been made with the father of Thomas Grayson, adjutant-general of the national guard, to ask the sheriff of De Soto county to permit the father to spring the trap if he, a resident of Holly Springs, would prevent a mob from attempting to seize the Negroes at their trial at Hernando, three weeks ago. Apparently the father kept his promise, and now the Mississippi legislature turns to in support of the promise made by the adjutant general.

This is the strangest compromise that we can recall between lawful authority and the forces of Judge Lynch. It is a most naive compromise—"let father quiet the mob and we'll let father have the satisfaction of taking the official post at the hanging."

It would be a waste of time to discuss the moralities of this particular episode which soon will be wholly in the past. But we see an illustration of what constitutions may mean, what sound and decent principles of government may mean when they encounter prevailing sentiment of peoples ruled by their emotions instead of their reasons. And the phrase "When thou art at Rome, do as they do at Rome," never would have had birth and breadth of usage unless in the ancient capital there had existed marked peculiarities. We trust that the logic espoused by the Mississippi adjutant general and legislators will not be carried to the point of securing reserved seats, at the execution, for the leading citizens of De Soto county who considerately refrained from murdering the three accused Negroes in advance of their trial and sentence according to due process of law. Enough travesty upon humane but efficient justice already has been committed.

NEGRO ESCAPES NOOSE FOR NINTH TIME

Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.
5/27/34

GULFPORT, Miss., May 26.—(AP)—Tom Carraway, Jackson county negro, scheduled to walk to the scaffold at Pascagoula Thursday for attacking a white woman, has temporarily escaped the noose for the ninth time.

Bidwell Adam, counsel for Carraway and former Mississippi lieutenant governor, announced today that Federal Judge E. R. Holmes, at Yazoo City, late Saturday granted a habeas corpus writ returnable to the federal court at Biloxi, June 4, and had issued along with the writ an order restraining the sheriff of Hinds county, where Carraway is in jail, from turning the negro over to Jackson county authorities for execution next Thursday.

Lynchings-1934

Legal Punishment for Rape.

New York.

4719

Two Negroes Convicted in Terror Drive

Daily Worker

I.L.D. Urges Protests on Conviction of Workers In Niagara Falls

11-1-34

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., Oct. 25.—Verdicts of "guilty" were handed down by a jury here today against Alphonse Davis, 22-year-old Negro worker framed on a flimsy "rape" charge, and against William Fisher, Negro, worker, who was almost beaten to death in an attack on an I. L. D. meeting called in support of the Davis defense, and framed on a charge of "assault at battery."

New York

Davis faces a possible sentence of twenty years, and Fisher of five, when they come up on Friday before Judge Harcourt here.

The frame-up against Davis was completely exposed by the I. L. D., and police officials have been carrying on a vigorous lynch-incitement campaign to bolster up their prosecution. The police-protected attack upon the I. L. D. meeting, at which Fisher was beaten while trying to protect two girl I. L. D. members from the blackjacks of the gangsters organized by the police, was part of this campaign.

Several other supporters of the defense have been framed on various charges and sentenced to the workhouse, including Stanley Chmiell, I. L. D. attorney in the case, and George Hart, district secretary of the I. L. D.

Protests and telegrams against the conviction, demanding the freedom of Davis and Fisher, should be sent immediately to Judge Harcourt, County Court, Lockport, N. Y.

Lynchings-1934

North Carolina

Legal Punishment for Rape.

4720

4720

NEGRO FACES CHAIR FOR ATTACK ON GIRL

GREENVILLE, N. C., Jan. 24—(AP)—James Green, negro, late Tuesday in superior court heard himself sentenced to die in the electric chair for his confessed criminal attack on a white girl whose escort he had beaten into unconsciousness.

Date of execution was set for April [illegible].

According to the negro's confession from the witness stand he first blackjacked the 16-year-old white girl's escort into unconsciousness and then abducted her in her escort's automobile. She was held prisoner by him for a few hours.

White Attacker Gets Ten Days

RALEIGH, N.C. (ANP)—Junius [illegible] Watkins, white, was found guilty in the city court here on charges of attacking a colored woman this week and was sentenced to pay the costs or serve ten days.

North Carolina has a law to protect women which enables the state to send a colored man to his death if a white woman says that he attacked her and the state can so much as prove that he laid a hand on her.

RALEIGH, N. C.
NEWS OBSERVER

APR 15 1934

FEEDING AGITATION

The history of a long series of agitations involving the quality of justice Negroes get in the courts of the South was enough to inspire Judge Grady's impatience with the eleventh-hour attempt of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to intervene in behalf of a defendant in Wake Superior Court.

The defendant was charged with attempted assault. Just before the verdict of guilt was returned by the jury, a Negro attorney asked to be recognized for the defense under employment of the association.

It did not appear to the court that the defendant had asked for the counsel or had consented to his appearance. Judge Grady declined to recognize him.

"The claim of these societies," said the court, "that a Negro cannot obtain justice in a white man's court is a lie and a humbug. They want to butt in on every case on such an excuse."

And yet it must be recognized that the activities of this society and its purposes are supported by worthy and well-meaning white men and women the country over.

The fact that it is frequently motivated by prejudice and misinformation and that it has frequently defeated its own avowed purposes, is beside the point.

The manner of the court was surely such as to feed agitation if the society chooses to agitate. The society will probably not elect to agitate, because in this particular case there is not enough drama to make an effective appeal outside the South.

Moreover, the court appointed two members of the local bar to investigate the case of the defendant and report at the next term of court, when sentence is to be passed.

The important thing is this. We in the South are quick to resent the intrusion of agitating organizations. We meet their prejudices and their misinformation with equally unjustified intolerance.

Instead of a showing of concern that an ignorant defendant's rights are protected in the Courthouse, we give way to resentment toward outsiders who profess interest in those rights.

In this case, instead of provision that the Negro, who Judge Grady himself suggested was probably of low mentality, should have adequate counsel, the court satisfied itself with an expression of deep disgust that an outside organization should undertake to intervene for purposes of appeal.

Everything that Judge Grady said about the N. A. A. C. P. may be right. But such an attitude on the part of the court is surely calculated to enable even an organization that lives by lying and humbuggery to convince the uninformed that it is serving the purposes of justice where justice is hard to obtain.

TARBORO, N. C.
SOUTHERNER

SEP 12 1934

Strange Reasoning

The attitude of the law sometimes winds a course too intricate for the lay mind to follow, as for instance the recent commutation of the death sentence to life imprisonment for a Negro who committed a criminal assault on a white woman.

Convicted last month in Moore county, the Negro was sentenced to die in the North Carolina state prison chair. Later, however, it developed that the woman he assaulted was not, as was supposed during the trial, of unimpeachable character, for in 1931 she had been sentenced to Samarcand Manor for delinquency. For this fact alone, the death sentence was changed to life imprisonment.

But does this revelation prove the convicted man any less vicious or any less guilty? It is not claimed that he knew of the woman's record for delinquency, which might have been a mitigating factor in the seriousness of the crime. Despite her character, no one could imagine that she encouraged the assault. Therefore, as far as the man's intents and purposes were concerned, his crime is no less damnable after the woman's character is revealed than it was during the trial.

There is a school of legal thought which maintains that [illegible]ishment should be based on intent rather than accomplishment of that intent and on abstract seriousness of crime regardless of alleviating circumstances unknown to the criminal at the time of commission of his crime. This seems to be a case where such an interpretation of the law should be applied.

Lynchings-1934
& Legal Punishment for Rape.

North Carolina

4721

GREENVILLE, N. C.
REFLECTOR

APR 9 - 1934

THE JIM GREEN CASE

Announcement was made Saturday to the effect that an effort would be made here at the coming term of criminal court to gain a new trial for Jim Green, negro, now on death row at State Prison awaiting electrocution April 20.

Green was convicted in criminal court here on a charge of rape of a white woman after he had made a confession to officers following his arrest and since he was sentenced to death an effort has been under way to get his sentence commuted to life imprisonment.

The basis upon which a new trial is being sought is on the grounds that new evidence has been discovered, but according to Solicitor D. M. Clark, who prosecuted the case, there has been no new evidence of import sufficient to grant any further action in the matter. The Solicitor stated that efforts are being made by the defense to have the negro's sentence commuted to life imprisonment and that in reply to inquiry from the state authorities he had sent a copy of the negro's confession and declined to recommend commutation.

Looking at the matter from the outside, it seems to us that one of two things is certain. Either the negro is guilty of the crime and should pay the penalty or else he is not guilty and should be freed. Just what the defense has in the way of new-found evidence, of course we do not know, but we are reliably informed that a lot depends upon the truth of statements contained in an anonymous letter received by the State Pardon Commissioner supposedly from some reputable white woman of this county. Such a letter no doubt will not and should not have any effect upon the state authorities for if any person is in possession of information that would prevent the execution of an innocent person to be sure they should have the courage to back up this information with their affidavit.

Of course it is not up to us to try this case in this column but we do want to make one thing perfectly clear. If, as is probable, this effort of a new trial is but a means to compromise with the prosecution for a commutation of sentence it is a grave mistake. We repeat, if the negro is guilty of this crime to which he confessed, he should pay the death penalty; if he is not guilty then to be sure he is not entitled to life imprisonment on the charge and a compromise on the issue would be a great miscarriage of justice. If the defense is sincere in its allegation of innocence of the defendnat, then it should make every effort to secure a new trial in order to gain the negro's freedom, for it would be wholly dishonest to compromise with a life sentence if there was a shadow of a doubt in favor of the negro. If the defense has the evidence we are sure that the court will grant the desired new trial but without the evidence there is no reason why the previous sentence should not stand.

So far as has been made known the law in this case has taken its rightful course and unless it is proven that a mistake has been made the matter should stand as it is.

N. C. CASE IS UNUSUAL IN MANY WAYS

Charges Against Man Weakened By Woman's Character

ADMITS IMMORAL LIFE

Journal and Guide

Citizens Take Steps To Save Doomed Man's Life

7-21-34

Special to Journal and Guide

RALEIGH, N. C. — Something new took place under the sun here last week and as a result a man over whom hangs death in the electric chair may be allowed to live out his natural life.

In this equation of life and death here in the South the heretofore banned question of a white woman's character in a case involving a Negro is the crucial point, and strangest of all it is admitted by the woman and urged by a delegation of white citizens as partial reason why the life of Jim Greene should not be exacted for the intimate relations which he and Marie House had.

As proof of how unusual a turn in Southern justice this case is, it is recalled how vehemently the prosecution in the Scottsboro case fought to discredit an anticipated but never used defense theory that the violation of an immoral white woman was less criminal than the violation of a virtuous or moral one. And in that internationally known case there is by the admission, of a presiding judge, more evidence that the nine boys involved are innocent than that they are guilty.

Made No Out-Cry

From the hearing testimony there was doubt in some quarters whether the man and the woman had sexual relations without her consent or not. When her married male companion on a joy ride in a "petters lane" was knocked unconscious and she was driven off by Greene, she made no outcry nor attempted to attract aid.

The woman related how Green got into the car and drove off with her, but she did not explain why she did not scream or otherwise seek to attract attention and aid when they passed a filling station, "except that possibly she was too scared," as a local paper points out.

Greene's story is that he aroused himself from a drunken stupor and discovered the woman with the white married man, Steve Edwards, who said his wife wouldn't let him return home if she knew he was out with Marie House. He found them near a patch of woods, where Edwards says he had stopped to fix a light on the car, whereupon he was struck by someone and knocked unconscious.

Attorney's Unusual Admission

This coincides with Green's story that he disposed of the white man with an oak stick and took the woman in the car in the direction of Washington, stopping late and engaging in intercourse with her.

Unusual also, is the admission of John R. Denton, young Ayden attorney, appointed by the court to defend Greene, who told the Parole Commissioner that he considered it his fault that all the evidence for his client was not brought out at the trial.

Marie House is 18 years old. She comes from Pitt County, as also does Greene, who faced electrocution last Friday for raping her, until a reprieve was granted so that further investigation could be made.

Tells of Her Sins

Marie House faced Commissioner of Paroles Edwin Gill Wednesday in his office in the presence of a number of Pitt County citizens. Greene was on Death Row in the state prison. Until letters came from prominent Pitt County citizens, giving confidential information about the woman's bad character, it looked like one of those open and shut "Negro-Did-It" rape cases all too frequent in the South.

But the commissioner, driving straight at the heart of the matter, called Marie House before him, and she unshamefully admitted intimate relations with several men, before reciting the story of the attack by Greene.

"Do you want this Negro to pay for this with his life?" asked the commissioner.

"That's up to you" (Commissioner Gill and the governor), she answered. "I don't want to see anyone killed."

Journal and Guide

Once at Prison Farm

She testified to struggling with Greene, who allegedly has confessed to assaulting her twice after taking her from the car.

Records from the Farm Colony for Women near Kinston show that the "hot-cha" victim has been an inmate there, and had received treatment for a social disease.

The attack occurred early in January.

7-21-34

All Not For Leniency

It was a little too much to expect, however, that all of the Pitt County people would favor a lesser sentence for Greene. The man who prosecuted Greene, Solicitor D. M. Clark, thinks "the law ought to take its course." Sheriff S. A. Whitehurst and Police Chief G. A. Clark of Greeneville said they believed the general sentiment in Pitt County was that the man should be electrocuted.

Among those favoring clemency were Ed Flanagan, banker and veteran legislator and J. F. Harrington, clerk of Pitt Superior Court.

At the hearing C. F. Pearce, former county tax collector, who brought Greene to the state prison for safekeeping after the attack, told of Greene's confession to him. And then the parole commissioner said a reprieve would enable a more thorough examination. The reprieve cleared the July death slate, other condemned men also etting respites.

Oklahoma

Lynchings—1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

4723

The Jess Hollins Case

Citizens of Clearview and members of the Community club met last week and responded to the call made for funds to appeal the case of Jess Hollins. Printed on the front page of this issue are the names of contributors and a general call for assistance. Black Dispatch

Negroes in Oklahoma cannot hardly recognize the importance and significance of the Jess Hollins case. Only this week in Oklahoma county a Negro was placed for the first time in many years in the jury box. To most Negroes the incident will illicit merely barber shop conversation. It will be a seven-day wonder, beginning and ending there.

To those who think and delve for the answer to all questions there is but one solution to this riddle. In Okmulgee the N. A. A. C. P. struck at the "all white" jury system in Oklahoma. Authority in this state recognizes that this question is now on its way to the Supreme Court. In every county in Oklahoma Negroes may look for the occasional entry of Negroes into the jury box in order to prevent the record showing that out of the body of taxpayers in Oklahoma no Negroes have landed in the jury box for many years. 3-17-33

Measured by such a yardstick the Jess Hollins case develops new significance. One can forget all of the other important factors regarding the life or death of this defenseless, persecuted youth. Here is a case in which is wrapped a question involving 15 million Negroes. The day Negroes sit in the jury box on equality with other citizens of this nation, justice is nearer and surer. The day Negroes sit in the jury box according to their constitutional right, white men are going to be fairer and more tolerant to Negroes. Jury service strikes deep into the complex of race hate. A different type of respect develops in all of us for the fellow who can and must sit in judgment upon our liberty and our lives. Oklahoma City, Okla.

A white man who sits on a jury today conscious of the fact that tomorrow a Negro may sit on another jury where his rights or the rights of ones dear to him are involved, will not be half so calloused and indifferent in his decision as he is under present conditions. In the environment of equality race hate disappears.

The Jess Hollins case now moves slowly to the Supreme Court. What have you contributed to the fund making this trial possible? Most Negroes are hoping that somehow, some way, the difficulties which surround us will disappear. They have a notion that some day all about which they dream will be achieved. These same Negroes lay no plans nor identify themselves with an effort wherein they assume personal responsibility for race salvation. What are you doing to release your race from the straight jacket of prejudice?

When the case was called in Okmulgee several weeks ago the defense fund was depleted. Two hundred thousand Negroes in Oklahoma, and yet not a cent with which to enter court. Of course, more than $500 has been raised, but this has gone for attorney's fees up to date and other expenses. This case has dragged across a period of three years, and the costs have mounted terribly past the point considered by those who first instituted proceedings. In addition to lawyer's fees witnesses have been transported, roomed and boarded.

Stenographers, telephone and telegraph calls, postage and travel expenses of this writer are all involved in heavy expense. Board and up-keep of Jess Hollins' wife were also for a long time borne.

Most of the assistance has come from the New York office of the N. A. A. C. P., and the Oklahoma City and Tulsa branches. The case could not have gone on but for the assistance of these three sources; but what have you done, dear reader, in your community regarding this important matter?

We might say right here in passing that this writer has been put to heavy personal expense in fighting this case. We can forget the time element involved (that is, the many days we have spent out of our office) and refer only to a lump item of expense. Last October, one year ago, while enroute to Sapulpa we threw a rod through our motor completely destroying it. It cost $480 to replace the motor. Not a cent of this expense has been charged to the Jess Hollins Defense Fund.

The Sunday before the trial this writer drove more than 175 miles over Creek county interviewing and assembling witnesses. We hired cars at our own expense to take these witnesses to Okmulgee, and stayed there three days spending no one's money but our own. This money has been since returned by the national office of the N. A. A. C. P., but what sacrifice or advance are you making in the interest of your race? What have you done, dear reader?

This editorial is written not so much to point out what we have done, as it is to expose how little the Negroes who compose the body of our large population have done. The Jess Hollins case involves fundamental problems that must be solved in this country. Are you willing to make a personal sacrifice in the solution of such matters? All submerged groups should realize that they must hang together or HANG SEPARATELY.

COURT SHOCKED WHEN BOYS TESTIFY THAT HOLLINS' ACCUSER DANCED AND DRANK WITH THEM

PASTOR SAYS WHITE GIRLS BROKE UP HIS CAMP MEETING FLIRTING WITH BLACK BOYS

Witness Says Alta Danced "Slow and Easy" With Colored Youths

Black Dispatch 2-24-34

OKMULGEE, Okla., Feb. 19.—Five hundred whites jammed and packed in the district court room of Judge Mark L. Bozarth, were shocked out of their senses when three Negro boys from the Slick neighborhood went on the stand and swore that Alta McCullom Pinion, the white girl who charges Jess Hollins, Creek county Negro, attacked her during December 1931, had frequented dance halls and brothels in the neighborhood and they had danced and drank whiskey with her.

Woman Testifies

Rosie Vann, colored woman, defense witness, when placed on the stand, stated that she attended a Negro dance at the home of James Jacobs during September 1931, which Alta McCullom and two other white girls attended. She identified the prosecuting witness and when Attorney Hill, in his endeavor to bring out the fact that the Negro youths were dancing a dance in which they had to put their arms around the white girls, said, "What sort of dance were they staging that night?"

Danced "Slow and Easy"

The whole court room roared when Mrs. Vann said, "I don't know. Some of them called it the 'Slow and Easy' and others called it the 'Two in One.'" Judge Bozarth had to rap for order and threatened to clear the court room.

Impeach Plaintiff's Testimony

While none of the witnesses knew anything regarding the attempted rape, they were used by the defense to impeach the credibility of the prosecuting witness who had testified that she had never attended a Negro dance and knew none of the Negroes who testified against her character and reputation.

Pastor Tells Story

Rev. G. R. Oates, who lives near Slick, stated to the court that he had known the McCullom woman for six years, that he lived adjoining farms with Bud McCullom for two years, and that one year he purchased and gathered Bud McCullom's crop. His house, he stated, was slightly over half a mile from the McCullom home. Alta McCullom when placed on the stand stated that she did not know Rev. Oates and had never seen him.

Had To Close Camp Meeting

Rev. Oats testified that in 1929 he held a camp meeting one-half mile from the McCullom farm, and that he was forced to abandon and close down the revival because of the unseemly conduct of the McCullom girls, together with two white girls named Scaggs and Scott. "They came to my meetings unattended by their parents or male escorts, and following the meetings would hang along the highway giving attention to the young Negro youths as they went home," said Oats.

Drunk In Negro Cabin

Oats further testified that he had a son along in his teens who had fallen into bad company about this time and that he had sent him out of the community because of it. "I had forbidden my son to go to a certain dance hall that the McCullom girl visited," said Oats, "so one Sunday night when I found my saddle horse gone I went there, arriving about 11 at night. When I arrived there I found my son lying on the floor drunk, my son-in-law was lying on the floor drunk, the proprietor of the place was lying on the floor drunk, and in the midst of half dozen was Alta McCullom, lying there drunk." Oats also said that he had seen Alta enter the home of Hoxie May, a Negro, in the town of Slick. The McCullom woman was a constant visitor there, according to Oats.

Danced at Dew Drop Inn

Mrs. Rosie Vann, during the course of her testimony, said that the city marshal at Slick, A. D. Morton, had to on several occasions, put Alta McCullom and her white girl associates out of the dance hall at Dew Drop Inn in the town of Slick.

Boys Danced With Alta

Although Sam Cunningham, assistant Creek county prosecutor, sought to impeach and confuse the testimony of Joe Green, Luverne White and Rennie Stafford, they could not be shaken from their sworn statement that they danced with Alta McCullom.

Went To Dance With Her

Joe Green said that he was in the town of Slick on the evening when James Jacobs gave his dance. He heard of it and went there "with some more boys." He said there were a lot of folk there, three white girls and some white boys. He said that Alta was there and he could not remember the number of times he danced with her on this occasion. He said the dance lasted until daybreak, and that he later saw Alta at the Dew Drop Inn, a Negro dance resort.

Drank Whiskey

Rennie Stafford, Negro youth, when placed on the stand, said that on the evening of the James Jacob dance a white youth named Melvon Robinson, together with Alta McCullom and three white girls, came to his home and took him with them in a car to the Jacobs dance. "We all went in and occasionally returned to the car where we drank whiskey together," he said. Stafford said that he returned home in the car with Melvon Robinson.

All White Girls Danced

Louvine White said that he also attended the dance and that in addition to dancing with Alta McCullom he danced with the other two white girls. Cunningham, time and time again, sought to show that all of the defense witnesses were prompted to say what they were saying by Rev. Oats, whom Cunningham pictured to the jury as an irresponsible Negro whom no white or black person considered responsible in the town of Slick.

Is Sullen

With her head hung down, and unable to look Attorney Hill in the face, Alta McCullom denied that she had ever attended a Negro dance or had any acquaintance among Negroes. While this question was not asked her in the present trial, she denied in the first hearing that she had ever seen Jess Hollins before the day of the alleged rape attack.

Story of Attack

She said that on the morning in question she was walking from her mother's to her sister's home, going west, and that Jess Hollins was in front of her walking. He stopped and started tying his shoe, and when she arrived near him he spoke saying "Hello." She said he said "Hello." "He came up behind me and caught hold of my belt, an I told him to turn me aloose or I'l scream," she said. It was the that the prosecuting witness sai that Hollins pulled her into th pasture, exhibiting a gun, and attacked her three times.

Has Uncertain Existence

When cross examined by Atty Hill, the young woman admitte that she married in May 1932 an separated from her husband in si weeks. She then went to San Springs and stayed three days, g ing from there to Tulsa where s said she stopped at the Broadwa hotel. Later in May she went an aunt's home in Bristow, goir later back to Tulsa, and the Broadway hotel. Hill relentlessly made her tell the jury that she had lived a rambling uncertain existence since the day she left Slick and she could only account for three days work that she had done in this long period.

Not knowing where Attorney Hill was drifting in his effort to ascertain her physical condition the night following the alleged attack, Alta testified that she went to bed and slept soundly that night following the alleged attack. She said she stayed that night at her sister's and did not know how long they stayed up.

Lynchings - 1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Oklahoma

4724

The Jess Hollins Case

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

2-17-34

As we write these lines, the case of Jess Hollins is still in the hands of an Okmulgee county jury. We do not know at this time what the outcome will be, but we cannot, to save our lives, understand how twelve men under oath could so stultify their conscience and ask the death penalty where the credibility of the prosecuting witness had been completely impeached.

Alta McCullom-Pinion, the girl who said she had been raped, got on the stand and testified Tuesday that she had never associated with Negroes; that she did not know and had never seen Rev. G. R. Oats, one of Hollins' principal witnesses, and that most of all she did not know Jess Hollins.

Three young Negro youths testified that Alta McCullom frequented Negro dance halls, that she danced and drank with Negroes. The proprietor of the dance hall testified that she came there, and the Rev. Oats testified that on one occasion he went one night to a disreputable whiskey den, where he had prohibited his son going, and there found his son drunk, his son-in-law drunk, the proprietor of the place drunk, and Alta McCullom lying in the floor drunk with them.

A young Negro woman went on the stand and testified that she attended the dance where Alta McCullom was present, and another Negro youth testified that he went to the dance with the McCullom girl, two other white girls and a white youth, and that they came to his home and took him in their car to the whiskey joint and brothel. This Negro youth called the name of the white youth who went with him to the place.

This writer went into the wilds of Creek county and secured these witnesses and their disinterest can be shown in the fact that all of them but one told this writer that they did not know Jess Hollins. If it could be said that they were close friends of Hollins, or perhaps relatives their credibility might be studied with great caution. We take it that their presence in the Okmulgee court room attests the growing disposition on the part of Negroes to stand up unafraid and expose the truth. This has not always been the attitude of Negroes in the Southland. It is indeed a sign of progress and the growth of manhood spirit.

The prosecuting witness said that she did not know the Rev. Oats. The Negro minister on the other hand, testified that for two years he lived adjoining farms from Bud McCullom, the father of the prosecuting witness; that one year he purchased Alta McCollum's father's crop and harvested it. Still Alta McCullom does not know, and never has known G. R. Oats.

Next week we shall publish the testimony of the witnesses in this case. Regardless of the outcome, we want the people of the United States to know what witnesses said under oath regarding the character and reputation of the prosecuting witness. Regardless of the attitude of a white jury we think the testimony of those who spoke in defense of Jess Hollins has as much integrity in it as the testimony of any white witness, and we believe further, as was stated to the jury by Judge Hill, that he did not believe Negroes knowing the environment in which they live would come into a court room in the South and voluntarily tell a lie on a white woman.

PROSECUTORS FAIL TO PROVE EVIDENCE OF FORCED ASSAULT CHARGED TO JESS HOLLINS

STATE'S WITNESSES IN "MIDNIGHT TRIAL" HAVE VANISHED

Case To Go To U. S. Supreme Court Says State N. A. A. C. P. President

OKMULGEE, Okla., Feb. 22.—An all white jury in Judge Bozarth's court Thursday convicted Jess Hollins, Creek county Negro, on the charge of having raped Alta McCullom, a white girl. The alleged crime was committed in December 1931. The jury recommended the death penalty. Editor Roscoe Dunjee, president of the state branches of the N. A. A. C. P., stated that the case would immediately be appealed.

2-24-34

To U. S. Supreme Court

Motion for a new trial will be presented by State Senator G. C. Horner Saturday and the records will immediately go to the Criminal Court of Appeals at Oklahoma City. Ground was laid by Atty. Hill, council for the defense, during the trial which began last Monday, and lasted three days, to carry the case to the Supreme Court of the United States.

"If He Were White".

"When you go to the jury box, ask yourself one question: 'If this defendant were a white man, and you had this flimsy charged placed against him, what would you do?'" declared Atty. Hill several times in his summary of the case before the jury Wednesday evening.

Inequalities

"Never before in my long practice of the law have I ever been engaged in the trial of a cause where the opportunities were so unequal. Here is a helpless, ignorant Negro accused by a young white woman. With the exception of the complaining witness, all of the witnesses are powerful officers of the law," he continued.

"I have wondered and I know you have wondered why some of the white neighbors of Alta McCullom have not come here to bolster up her story. Where is Cooper, the white man to whose house he says she went shortly following this assault? Why is he not here to bolster up her story of what actually happened?

Where Is Sister?

"Where is Alta's sister? Why did they not bring her here? Why? Did that sister know anything? Does she not have a sisterly affection and anxiety? Why rely entirely upon this preposterous story offered by powerful officers of the law?"

What About The Garments

Hill then went on to point out that a rape case was a dangerous thing at best. He quoted the instructions of the court relating to violence and resistence. "Mere words are not resistence," he declared. "She has stated here that she went through a barbed wire fence of three wires, and yet they only allege that a little tear in the lower end of the outer coat was the only tear in her garments. They said that Jess Hollins had blood on the underwear that he wore at that time, but where is Alta's garments? Why have they not brought them here?"

No Evidence of Force

"There is not a scintilla of evidence as to force in the physical facts presented. Not a mark on her face, not a mark on her body, not any torn clothing. It looks from her own testimony that Alta's stay in the woods was too deliberate and too long. Did you ever in your life see a case where there was no evidence of any character relating to violence?"

Strange Actions

Tracing the actions of the accusing witness, Atty. Hill said that it looked strange that Miss McCullom would go in one direction and Jess in another without her going to the nearest house to report what had happened. "The important thing should have been to apprehend Jess Hollins, and the way to have done this would have been to go to the nearest house and report it. Instead, she says she later met her sister quite by accident, and told her."

Found Hollins In Bed

"Another side to this story which raises unquestionably a doubt is the action of Jess Hollins himself. The officers have testified that when they went to his home that night they found him in bed with his wife. Why did not Jess Hollins flee the neighborhood? Alta had told him she was going to report him. Did you ever hear of a Negro acting in this way before under similar circumstances?"

Confession Bunk

Going into a discnssion of the alleged confession which Hollins later told his attorney had been secured by force, Judge Hill riddled it with his penetrating logic. He picked up the document and read from it, stating: "The state is bound by this document just as much as Jess Hollins."

Went Voluntarily

"Here's what Jess says in this document that they make so much of: he said he held the wire fence while she got through it and he used this language: 'She went with me of her own free will.' It was then that the Honorable Sebe Christian, and I am still reading from this alleged confession, said 'Jess, you know you are not telling the truth. Did she go of her own free will?' 'No Sir.' 'Did you throw her down on the ground?' 'No, sir.'

"Sebe Christian knew that his case had fallen down when this poor Negro testified to the truth and said the prosecuting witness went with him of her own free will. He knew he had no case so he led the witness into this second answer upon which he builds a case.

Pity the Woman

"I do not want to make any improper suggestions against this woman. I only pity her. I hated to put three Negroes on the stand against her, but this helpless black man's life is at stake and I think you sworn jurors are entitled to know everything regarding this case. After I had examined those witnesses before this trial, it was only fair to you and this defendant that you be given this information."

Black Testimony vs. White Jury

Black Dispatch

Oklahoma City, Okla.

Jess Hollins is again convicted and sentenced to die in the electric chair. We left the district court room before the trial was ended and hurried on to Oklahoma City. For four days we had been trying to direct the itinerary of Hon. Jesse O. Thomas and run the Black Dispatch office by telephone, but on the road to Oklahoma City and even the next day when we landed in Coalgate, there was ringing in our ears the admonition of Judge E. P. Hill, defense attorney for Jess Hollins, who said, "Gentlemen, if this defendant were a white man, what would you do?"

Twelve all-white jurors sat in the box at Okmulgee and on their solemn oaths declared that if there was any element of doubt which entered their minds, they would vote for acquittal of the defendant. These same twelve men stated to the court that they had no prejudice in their hearts as to race, and yet with an abundance of doubt raised by the testimony of a half score of witnesses, these all-white jurors say that Jess Hollins must die.

During that three days trial there was not a witness who went on the stand who sought to say that the actual rape did not occur. The truth is, that there was no one either black or white, witnesses to what actually did happen on the day that the prosecuting witness said she was attacked. The only effort made in this trial was to break down the credibility of the complaining witness and this was successfully done. 3-3-34.

Ordinarily, when a court hears testimony from a witness which is an exaggeration or false, all of the testimony of such witnesses is cast out as unworthy of consideration. This is a well defined principle recognized in all courts. It was because we knew that the Jess Hollins defense had made out such a case that we wondered what the jury would do.

Of course, all of the witnesses for the defense were black, but the jurymen had said that they had no prejudice or bias against black testimony.

Alta McCullom had said that she did not know Jess Hollins; that she had never associated with him; that she had never mingled with Negroes, and to the best of her knowledge she had never been in the town of Slick but once.

Now what was the testimony adduced before that all-white jury? A responsible Negro minister went on the stand. He swore that he had to close down a revival near Slick several years ago because of the frequency with which Alta McCullom hung around the roadside near the camp meeting associating with Negro boys. This Negro minister said that later he went to a brothel one night and found the prosecuting witness there drunk, his son drunk, his son-in-law drunk, the proprietor of the house drunk—everybody drunk, LYING IN THE FLOOR.

Three young Negro men went on the stand and testified that they had gone to the home of a Negro, James Jacobs, and there met and danced with Alta McCullom. One of them said he went to the dance with her, and that in company with other whites he drank whiskey with her. This young man called white people's names who went there with him (an extremely dangerous thing to do in face of the circumstances); but he named them and stood his ground.

In addition, the Negro, James Jacobs, went on the stand and testified that he had the dance party at his home, that liquor was sold there and that Alta McCullom attended and danced at that party.

In the light of this sort of testimony, what do you, dear reader, assume a jury of white men would have done had the defendant been white? Do you believe that young Negro men who live in the rural sections of Oklahoma and in a state where their citizenship status is demoted by law, would have wilfully gone on the stand and told a deliberate lie about this young white woman?

This writer went up into Creek county and assembled these witnesses and we can say right here that in interviewing these witnesses we believe everyone of them, except one, said they did not know Jess Hollins. It can be readily seen that this was not a case of individuals attempting to stretch the truth to save a friend. All of them were told to tell the truth, and nothing but the truth, and we were able to find them solely because of the general knowledge of everybody that these witnesses were present at the James Jacobs dance and at the Dew Drop Inn dance. What they testified to in court they had repeated a hundred times to friends before they were called as witnesses.

Delaying a trial has its good elements and its bad. While this trial hung on the defense lost a good white witness who has moved out of the state. This white man was at the same dance and he told many Negroes he would attend and testify regarding the character and reputation of the prosecuting witness.

In the light of all that has happened we want to broaden the question of Judge Hill, passed on to the all-white jury: "What would have been their attitude if the witnesses who said they saw Alta McCullom at the dance at James Jacobs' home, had been members of the white race?" Would they have loaned more credence to a white person's word? Was the fact that all the testimony which attacked Alta McCullom's credibility, was given by Negroes used to the credit of the prosecuting witness? Did the all-white jury forget their oaths and go into the jury rooms saying, "I would not believe a damn nigger?"

Jess Hollins Goes To Penitentiary

Case Appealed By N. A. A. C. P.

OKMULGEE, Okla., Feb 28.—Motion for a new trial was made here Saturday in the case of Jess Hollins, Negro, convicted last week in the alleged rape of Alta McCullom, Creek county white girl. State Senator G. E. Horner local attorney presented the motion for a new trial which was denied by Judge Mark L. [illegible]. Horner argued the motion for an hour, during which time he sought to show the court that Hollins had not been arraigned, given a preliminary trial and a chance to plead under the new information upon which he was tried. He proved conclusively that the records did not disclose this, although the court insisted that this had been done. Horner gave notice of appeal.

3-3-34

Okla. City Okla.

Lynchings - 1934
Legal Punishment for Rape

Pennsylvania

4725

Negro Gets Long Term For Attack Attempts

Advertiser
1-18-34
Montgomery, Ala.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 17.—(AP)—Frank Armstead, negro, was sentenced today to 20 to 40 years in Eastern State Penitentiary after he pleaded guilty to charges that he attempted to attack 14 women.

"You have forfeited your right to live with civilized people," said Judge Eugene V. Alessandroni in imposing sentence.

Armstead, who authorities said was 20 years old, although he maintained he was 17, was arrested Jan. 10 in the basement of his home.

Negroes Sentenced.

YORK, Pa., January 16.—(AP)—After pleading guilty in court to robbery and a criminal assault, William Ransome and Fletcher [illegible], negroes, were sentenced by Judge Henry C. Niles to 12 1-2 to 25 years in the penitentiary.

URT VINDICATES NEGRO ACCUSED OF ATTEMPT TO RAPE

Defender
12-29-34

New York City.—(Sp.)—Samuel Smith, reputable Lewistown, Pa., man, tried and convicted in November, 1933, for alleged attempted assault with intent to rape on a white woman, has been granted a new trial by the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

The court held evidence was insufficient to show criminal intent and that the highest offense that could possibly arise out of the evidence was that of simple assault and battery. The high court stated that the trial court had erred in not directing the jury to find the defendant not guilty of assault with intent to rape. The trial court had refused a new trial on July 4, 1934.

According to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which contributed $100 to Smith's defense, his case will be tried as one of assault and battery this coming January term which begins January 7. The attorney in this case is Paul S. Lehman of Lewistown.

Smith, owner of a rooming house at which the white woman, Ada Wise, was staying, was accused by her of attempted assault after he had asked her to vacate the premises because of her conduct and had called a constable.

Lynchings - 1934

Legal Punishment for Rape.

South Carolina

4726

Lexington Man Seeks New Trial

Arguments Heard In Supreme Court on Alleged Criminal Assault Case.

Contending a crmiinal assault charge against a Negro usually is tantamount to "the electric chair" in the South, counsel for Clarence Floyd, Lexington Negro, appealed to the South Carolina supreme court yesterday to render a decision confining the penalty to cases of undisputed "truth and justice."

W. J. Frederick, Columbia attorney, asked the court to grant a new trial to Floyd on grounds that testimony which led to his being condemned to death last September 15 was incomplete and conflicting.

"It is the tendency of juries in South Carolina and this section to convict in these cases irrespective of testimony," Mr. Frederick asserted. "This condition is going to remain until the courts say that unless you come up with a straightforward and direct story of what occurred we are not going to take a man's life for this crime.

"When a young white man gets in a tight place and needs an explanation, he says a Negro did thus and so. So well is this thing known that it's being dramatized."

The married salesman in this case, Mr. Frederick claimed, had to explain to the mother of the young white woman with him why they did not return home until 1 a. m., three hours after leaving for a brief car ride.

The lawyer contended the story both told of a criminal assault at pistol point by Floyd was "nothing more than an afterthought" to excuse their absence.

They did not tell officers of the alleged assault until two days after reporting they had been robbed, he contended, adding that the attack "couldn't have occured from a physical standpoint" and that the state offered no medical or disinterested witnesses.

Solicitor T. C. Callison of Lexington replied, "I wouldn't want to see an injustice done, but there is no shadow of doubt that this young woman was assaulted by this Negro."

The prosecutor, who defense counsel agreed was "fair and temperate," reviewed the evidence with the comment that the couple were so "moved by the seriousness of the crime that they sacrificed everything to bring it to light when they could have kept silent."

The man, he added, was of good reputation and entirely without a police record such as Floyd asserted he had.

The supreme court took the case under advisement.

Tennessee

Lynchings-1934
&
Legal Punishment for Rape.

4728

Death Sentences Upheld

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Feb. 24.—(AP)—Death sentences of three negroes convicted of criminal assault on white women in Memphis were upheld today by the supreme court. They are Jasper Graham, Frank Mays and Percy Smith.

3 NEGROES WILL DIE FOR ASSAULTS HERE

Commercial Appeal

Woman and Young Girl Were Victims of Attacks

2-25-34

CONFESSIONS ARE UPHELD

Memphis

Supreme Court Affirms Sentences of Two Roadside Attackers and Negro Who Outraged Victim in Home

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BY W. F. BARRY, JR.
Assistant Attorney General

NASHVILLE, Feb. 24. — For criminally assaulting two white women, three Memphis negroes today were sentenced by the supreme court to die in the electric chair.

Jasper Graham and Frank Mays, two of the negroes, were jointly convicted in the Shelby County criminal court. In affirming the case the supreme court held "the evidence clearly sustains the identification of these two negroes as the parties who held up an automobile in North Memphis, robbed the occupants, Archibald Hollis and Mary Louise Johnson, and shot the young man and criminally assaulted the young woman on the night of Sept. 28, 1932.

Voluntary Confession

"The preponderance of the evidence fails to show that the confessions made by these parties were not voluntary or were procured by abuse." The court set the date of their electrocution for Friday, March 23, 1934.

In the case of Percy Smith vs. the State in the criminal court of Shelby County, the defendant was found guilty of the crime of rape. The jury assessed the death penalty. The accused did not testify and no evidence was offered in his behalf.

Smith was convicted of criminally assaulting Mrs. Theresa Hartsfield in her home at Bartlett after locking her invalid sister in a closet. He escaped a posse the night following his crime but was arrested by officers the next day and confessed. The state declined to accept his guilty plea and presented the evidence to a jury, which imposed the death verdict.

The court found upon the facts presented by the record that the verdict was supported by the evidence and affirmed the judgment. The date of electrocution was fixed for April 4, 1934. The public defender, who represented the accused in the trial court and presented the case before the supreme court, urged that the court recommend that the governor commute the punishment to life imprisonment. In the memorandum filed by the supreme court it was stated:

"The implication suggested by the argument of the defendant's counsel reaches beyond the record to extraneous facts only open to review under direction of the governor." It was suggested that these matters be brought to the attention of the governor, so that he might institute an inquiry.

Other cases decided were:

BY JUSTICE M'KINNEY:

Harry Wagerman vs. J. S. Menke et al., Shelby equity. By the bill complainant claims an estate by the courtesy in a house and lot in Memphis. Menke is an innocent purchaser of the property, and the chancellor was correct in dismissing the bill.

City of Memphis vs. State Board of Equalization. Davidson law. Court concurs with the trial court in holding that the railroad and public utilities commission can classify telephone wires for purposes of taxation so as to place different values on open wires and wires in cables. Affirmed.

Mrs. Blanche Whitelaw vs. City of Memphis. Shelby law. Plaintiff, while crossing a street in violation of a jay walking ordinance stepped into a hole in a grass plot in the middle of the street. The court holds (1) that this grass plot is a part of the street and not a park (2) that plaintiff had the right to use the grass plot and was not a mere licensee; and (3) that the question as to her contributory negligence barring a recovery is one for the jury. The judgment of the trial court and the court of appeals dismissing the suit is reversed and the case remanded.

BY JUSTICE CHAMBLISS:

Harriet S. Gordon vs. Tennessee Central Railway Company, Davidson law, reversed and dismissed. A small car operated on a railroad, describes as "a certain motorcycle, or hand car, being a small four wheeled concern" is not within the statute which requires a railroad company to keep a lookout on the locomotive and give an alarm when an obstruction appears upon the road. Opinion for publication.

By Chief Justice Green

John H. Rice vs. Lusky Furniture Company, Davidson law. Affirmed. Held that a conditional vendor who sold retaken property after advertisement and according to law was only liable for conversion, not for the amount of previous payments, although the retaking was not lawful.

P. A. Alfred vs. Bankers and Shippers' Insurance Company et al., Davidson equity, affirmed. Held that the husband as tenant by the entirety was not the sole and unconditional owner of property so as to permit recovery on an insurance policy in which he had represented his title to be that of sole and unconditional ownership.

Jim Hamilton vs. the state, Marion criminal, affirmed. Defendant was convicted of murder in the first degree in two cases upon the charge of killing Eas Walker and Blanche Walker. He was given a long prison sentence for each offense. Walker and his wife, neighbors of defendant, disappeared from their home on Oct. 27, 1931, and nothing has been heard of either of them since.

The remains of a large fire was discovered on defendant's farm. A search of the ashes disclosed human bones, the bones of a man and the bones of a woman. A ring found in the ashes was identified as Walker's ring and gold crowns found in the ashes were identified by a dentist as crowns he had placed on Walker's teeth. The court found that the corpus delicti and the venue were sufficiently proven and upon an extended review of the evidence concluded that the circumstances were such as to exclude every reasonable hypothesis other than that of defendant's guilt. Walker had shot the defendant previously and there was bad feeling between the two men.

Petitions to rehear were denied in the following cases:

Curtis Earl Hooten and Homer Albro vs. the state, Shelby criminal. City of Memphis vs. Southern Railway Company, Shelby law, and Sutton Brothers, et al., vs. Minnie Hutchins, et al., Polk law.

By Justice Swiggart

C. C. Pugh vs. Hermitage Loan Company, Shelby equity, decree of chancellor affirmed. A small loan company may not justify an expense fee charged on a loan by showing that it sustained losses on other similar loans. Opinions filed for publication.

B. Gray vs. O. D. Houck, Davidson law, circuit court affirmed. Jurisdiction of the defendant in a suit for damages for personal injuries, inflicted by an automobile cannot be acquired by an attachment of defendant's insurer, under a contract of insurance against liability. The insurer is not a debtor subject to garnishment until judgment is rendered against the defendant for which the insurer is liable. Opinion filed for publication.

W. N. Harrington vs. state, Shelby county. Conviction for larceny and receiving stolen property, affirmed. Memorandum filed.

Certiorari Cases

Provident Life and Accident Insurance Company vs. Banj. A. Harrison, Shelby equity. Writ granted.

Joe Walden, et al., vs. Klinke Brothers Inc. Cream Co., et al., Shelby law, writ denied. The supreme court concurs in the result reached by the court of appeals.

Gooch Edenton Hardware Company vs. Exell Long, et al., Madison equity, writ denied.

Dr. A. N. Kittrelle vs. Barnwell and Hays, Shelby law, petition to rehear denied.

Thurman Tallev vs. A. K. Tigrett et al., Shelby equity, both petitions denied.

Union Planters National Bank & Trust Company vs. Tennessee Burlap and Bag etc., Co., el al., Shelby equity, writ denied.

S. P. McDonald et al., vs. J. H. Bray et al., Shelby equity, writ denied. Memorandum opinion filed.

Chas. Jones et al., vs. Memphis Security Company, Shelby law, writ denied.

Mrs. Clara Cooper vs. United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company, Shelby equity, writ denied.

Columbia, Tenn., Daily Herald
March 16, 1934

GRAND JURY IS DISMISSED, NO LYNCHING BILL

CONDITION COURTHOUSE CRITIZED, JAIL REPAIRS CITED, OTHER INSTITUTIONS PRAISED

Completing its work for the term without finding any indictments in the lynching of Cordie Cheek, negro, here last December, which was one of the crimes investigated, the Maury county grand jury for the February term of circuit court made its final report this morning and was dismissed by Judge W. B. Turner, sine die.

In the final report were 18 new indictments, covering a variety crimes. Names of those indicted were not made available, it being stated that some of them were not under arrest.

In the report on county institutions, the grand jury found fault with the condition in which the courthouse is kept, and recommended changes there and repairs at the jail. The workhouse and poor farm were found satisfactory by the committees, and it was reported that there are 33 inmates in the former and 19 in the latter.

On the courthouse, the report stated that the walls were dirty, plaster unsightly, floors dirty and not properly swept, and toilets "filthy, foul and unsanitary." It was recommended that if the janitors were at fault, changes be made, and that CWA work could be used to improve the courthouse, and the suggestion was made that this be taken up by the Quarterly County Court at its April meeting.

The jail needs immediate repairs, the report said. It added that the roof is leaky, the furnace inadequate, paint is needed, and steps are dangerous. The residence part is well kept, the prisoners are well treated, clothed and fed, and all members of the staff of Sheriff Claude Godwin are to be complimented, the jurors reported. There are 23 prisoners.

The indictments were for the following crimes: Housebreaking and larceny, three; assault to kill, three; petty larceny, two; public drunkenness, two; whiskey, two; possessing a gaming devise, one; driving drunk three, and carrying pistol, three.

Escort Will See Two Attackers Die

Accompanied by the girl whom he futilely tried to protect from outrage and her husband, Hollis Archibald left for Nashville last night to witness the execution early today of two negroes who seriously wounded him during the course of a criminal assault in Douglass Park the night of Sept. 28, 1932.

Commercial Appeal

"I wouldn't miss this chance for anything in the world to see them pay for what they did to me and to her," he said. "She feels the same way I do, and so does her husband."

4-4-34

The girl was only recently married. She was a high school junior when the attack occurred.

Memphis, Tenn.

The negroes, Jasper Graham and Frank Mays, lost their last hope of reprieve yesterday when Governor McAlister declined to intervene, after granting one stay of execution. The stay expired last midnight and the negroes were to be electrocuted before dawn.

THREE NEGROES DIE FOR TWO ATTACKS

Commercial Appeal

Trio Electrocuted In Nashville For Shelby Assaults

4-5-34

ONE CONFESSES CRIME

Memphis Press

Victim and Escort Denied Admittance to Death Chamber: Two Declare Innocence Before Going to Chair

By The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, April 4.—The electric chair early today took the lives of three Memphis negroes convicted on charges of attacking two women. One of them, Percy Smith, 20, confessed, but Jasper Graham, 29, and Frank Mays, 30, insisted that they were innocent.

Smith was accused in one case and the other two jointly in another.

Graham and Mays were convicted of attacking a young woman in North Memphis after robbing and shooting Hollis Archibald, her companion. Archibald and the young woman went to the death house last night and sought confessions, but the two negroes insisted they were innocent. Smith confessed attacking a Bartlett housewife.

Unable to See Execution

Warden A. W. Neely of the state penitentiary refused permission to Archibald and the young woman to witness the executions, which occurred shortly after dawn, because of a Tennessee statute forbidding attendance by any except official witnesses.

W. J. Raney, Memphis detective sergeant who participated in the arrest of the two men, also sought confessions, but they answered him with denials.

Mays replied affirmatively when a minister asked if he confessed to "your sin," but did not admit participation in the attack and robbery.

Smith, smiling and professing faith, went to the chair at 5:15 a.m., and was pronounced dead at 5:19. A short circuit delayed executions of the others. Graham died at 6:13 and Mays at 6:20.

Liked the Spirituals

The three showed little emotion and Smith conversed freely with prison attaches and expressed pleasure at spirituals sung by a negro quartet.

"Sin Is to Blame," "An Angel Watches Over Me," and "If I Could Hear My Mother Pray for Me" were among the songs which Smith termed "mighty good singing."

"Until I confessed," he told reporters, "I felt terrible. I had chills and it was a mighty funny feeling—knowing I was going to die. But since I told the truth I feel fine." He declared that he was "certainly sorry" for his crime but added that "I've told the truth to these men and the Lord and I ain't afraid of anything. There's nothing to be afraid of when the Lord is on your side. I'm ready to go—we all have to go sometime."

"Yes, sir," Graham echoed from an adjoining cell. "We all have to go, but I am going for something I didn't do."

"I don't know whether they are guilty or not," Smith remarked with reference to Graham and Mays, "but I certainly hope they ain't."

Graham then reiterated that "I'm an innocent man—the Lord knows I am and they are killing me for something I never did. They identified me for the wrong man."

Mays talked little, except to respond negatively when asked if he was guilty.

As the chair was prepared for the triple execution, members of the quartet clasped hands with the condemned men and they all sang "Going Home."

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the attack and robbery.

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THREE NEGROES DIE IN ELECTRIC CHAIR

Tennessee Trio Put To Death At Nashville For Attacking White Women

Advertiser

4-5-34

Montgomery Ala.

NASHVILLE, TENN., April 4.—(AP)—The electric chair early today took the lives of three Memphis negroes convicted on charges of attacking white women. One of them, Percy Smith, 20, confessed, but Jasper Graham, 29, and Frank Mays, 30, insisted they were innocent.

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Lynchings-1934
& Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Alabama

4618

Lynching Inquiry Proves Fruitless

~~Telegraph~~ - 11-23-34

Alabama Sheriff and Deputies Cleared of Blame

~~Macon~~ Ga.

BREWTON, Ala., Nov. 22 (AP)—An Escambia county grand jury in special session today failed to return any indictments in the removal of Claude Neal, Negro, from the county jail here last Oct. 26 and his subsequent lynching in Jackson county, Fla., where he allegedly attacked and killed a white woman.

Sheriff G. S. Byrne and his deputies also were exonerated by the jury of any blame for Neal's removal, the report stating there was "no evidence that the sheriff and his force were derelict in their duty."

As to the mob, the jury said there was nothing to identify members.

Neal was taken from the Escambia jail, where he had been brought for safe keeping, about 3 a. m., Oct. 26 and kept by the armed mob for almost 24 hours before his mutilated body was hung from a tree in the public square at Marianna, Fla

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Brewton Sheriff Is Exonerated In Death Of Negro

Advertiser
11-23-34
Montgomery Ala

BREWTON, ALA., Nov. 22.—(AP)—An Escambia County Grand Jury in special session today failed to return any indictments in the removal of Claude Neal, negro, from the county jail here last Oct. 26 and his subsequent lynching in Jackson County, Fla., where he allegedly attacked and killed a white woman.

Sheriff G. S. Byrne and his deputies also were exonerated by the jury of any blame for Neal's removal, the report stating there was "no evidence that the sheriff and his force were derelict in their duty."

As to the mob, the jury said there was nothing to identify members.

The jury convened Monday on orders issued shortly after the lynching by Gov. Miller, but recessed until today after examining 12 witnesses, including Sheriffs Byrne, H. E. Gandy, of Pensacola, Fla., and W. F. Chambliss, of Marianna, Fla.

Neal was taken from the Escambia jail, where he had been brought for safekeeping, about 3 a.m. Oct. 26 and kept by the armed mob for almost 24 hours before his mutilated body was hung from a tree in the public square at Marianna, Fla.

The jailer confronted by the mob said that the members were traveling in about 30 automobiles bearing Florida license plates. He said he was covered by guns and the mob threatened "to tear down your jail"

Neal was brought here secretly the day after he allegedly confessed attacking and killing Miss Lola Cannidy, of Greenwood, Fla. The mob told the jailer they were going to take him to Miss Cannidy's father and "let him do what he wants to with him."

A crowd gathered at the Cannidy home, however, and the negro was not brought there until he had been killed.

Almost 12 hours after he was removed from jail, Neal's body, mutilated by bullets and knives, was hung from a tree in the public square at Marianna, Fla.

Gov. B. M. Miller ordered the probe in progress here.

Escambia Jurors Sifting Lynching

Advertiser
11-26-34

Three Sheriffs Questioned In Mob Slaying Of Negro Taken From Brewton Jail

Montgomery Ala.

BREWTON, ALA., Nov. 19.—(AP)—An Escambia County Grand Jury today questioned one Alabama and two Florida sheriffs in its investigation of the removal of Claude Neal, negro, from the Escambia County Jail by a mob last Oct. 26.

After examining 12 witnesses the jury voted to recess until Thursday, when the probe will be resumed.

Sheriffs H. E. Gandy, of Pensacola Fla.; G. S. Byrne, of Brewton, and W. F Chambless, of Marianna, Fla., were among those questioned about the abduction of Neal and his subsequent lynching-death near Greenwood, Fla., where he allegedly attacked and killed a white woman.

Two night policemen here, the jailor on duty when the armed mob appeared and demanded Neal, and a filling station operator who allegedly directed several cars bearing Florida license plates to the jail, were among those questioned.

Neal was brought here for safe-keeping after he allegedly confessed to attacking and killing Miss Lola Cannidy near her Greenwood home a few days previously, and among the things the jurors were reported "wanting to know" was how information that Neal was being held here became public.

The day after he was brought here, a mob riding in Florida cars appeared about 3 a.m., covered the jailer with pistols and took the negro with the announcement they were going to return him to Greenwood and let Miss Cannidy's aged father "do what he wants to with him."

Later in the day "all white folks" in Jackson County, Florida, were sent word to "come to the lynching." Such a crowd gathered, however, the mob did not appear at the Cannidy home.

Lynchings, -1934

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Alabama

4619

LYNCH LAWYER' SUIT SETTLED OUT OF COURT

TUSCALOOSA, Ala., Feb. 20.—(AP) Two civil suits against a telegraph company for damages in a telegram in which attorneys for Dan Pippen Jr., negro accused of attacking a white girl, were referred to as "lynch lawyers," were settled out of court today.

The telegram, received by Circuit Judge H. B. Foster, demanded that "local lynch lawyers" be ordered from the case and attorneys for the international labor defense permitted to handle Pippen's defense.

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The telegram, received by Circuit Judge H. B. Foster, demanded that "local lynch lawyers" be ordered from the case and attorneys for the international labor defense permitted to handle Pippen's defense.

7-21-34.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
February 27, 1934

Watch Your Wires

(Decatur Daily)

The injunction to "watch your step" is old enough to have whiskers, but to that good advice now may properly be added "watch your wires."

Under an agreement, two Tuscaloosa attorneys have collected $450 damages each from the Postal Telegraph Company because the company accepted for transmission and delivered a telegram from the International Labor Defense referring to the attorneys as "lynch lawyers."

The settlement of the case probably will have wide application inasmuch as the I. L. D. has been a notorious offender against good manners and decency in the manner in which it has "commanded," "demanded" and insulted Alabama officials and Alabama judicial institutions. Both the Postal and Western Union henceforth probably will cast a careful eye over telegrams the I. L. D. attempts to forward in Alabama.

The Tuscaloosa suit was not only a novel but an interesting one. It will be recalled by newspaper readers that a Tuscaloosa negro was arrested and bruoght to trial on a charge of slaying a young white girl. The fact that the negro later was lynched has no direct bearing on the suit. When the case was called in court, two attorneys appeared for the negro, explaining they had been retained by the negro's family.

Other attorneys appeared stating they had been sent by the I. L. D. Then a telegram appeared, addressed to Judge Foster, and "demanding" that he oust the "local lynch lawyers" and permit the I. L. D. counsel to appear for the negro.

The Daily has no idea how much the Postal Telegraph company charged the I. L. D. for the message, but whatever it was, it wasn't enough. The wire cost the Postal $900, which is a right sizeable amount, even in days of depreciated currency.

Eufaula, Ala. Tribune
March 1, 1934

WATCH YOUR WIRES

The warning is from the Decatur Daily and is based on damages awarded two Tuscaloosa attorneys against the Postal Telegraph Company.

Under the agreement, says the Daily, the attorneys have collected $450 damages each from the Postal Telegraph Company because the company accepted for transmission and delivered a telegram from the International Labor Defense referring to the attorneys as "lynch lawyers."

The settlement of the case probably will have wide application inasmuch as the I. L. D. has been a notorious offender against good manners and decency in the manner in which it has "commanded," "demanded" and insulted Alabama officials and Alabama judicial institutions. Both the Postal and Western Union henceforth probably will cast a careful eye over telegrams the I. L. D. attempts to forward in Alabama.

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TUSCAL SA NEGRO SPEEDED TO KILBY IN QUICK HEARING

Less Than 24 Hours After Crime Prisoner On Way To Pen

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — (AP) —Less than 24 hours after a University of Alabama co-ed fought off his efforts to attack her, James Banks, Negro, Saturday afternoon was taken to Kilby Prison, Montgomery, to serve a sentence of from 19½ to 20 years at hard labor for his crime.

The Negro entered a plea of guilty to an indictment charging him with assault with intent to ravish, and Judge Henry B. Foster gave him the maximum sentence for the offense. The indictment was returned in a one-hour special session of the Grand Jury Saturday morning.

Sheriff R. L. Shamblin left immediately with the prisoner for Montgomery.

7-22-34

Banks, who also is known as Robert Michael, told officers he

Co-ed's Attacker Is Sent to Prison

Macon Telegraph 7-23-34 Ga.

Alabama Negro Given 20 Years For Attempted Assault

TUSCALOOSA, Ala., July 22 (AP)—Less than 24 hours after a University of Alabama co-ed fought off his efforts to attack her, James Banks, Negro, Saturday was on his way to Kilby prison, Montgomery, to serve a sentence of from nineteen and a half to twenty years at hard labor for his crime.

The Negro entered a plea of guilty to an indictment charging him with assault with intent to ravish, and Judge Henry B. Foster gave him the maximum sentence for the offense. The indictment was returned in a one-hour long special session of the grand jury this morning.

Sheriff R. L. Shamblin left immediately with the prisoner for Montgomery.

Banks, who also is known as Robert Michael, told officers he came to Tuscaloosa from Kilby prison in April, following his completion of a five-year sentence for a similar offense at Jackson, Ala., in Clarke county.

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came to Tuscaloosa from Kilby Prison in April, following his completion of a five-year sentence for a similar offense at Jackson, Ala., in Clarke County.

Miss Mary Tate Kicker, 20, comely brunet senior in the University's College of Commerce, identified Banks as her assailant shortly after his arrest Friday night.

Banks confessed the crime shortly after his arrest.

Birmingham News Ala.

Miss Kicker escaped the Negro's clutches after being thrown to the ground by kicking him in the abdomen "as hard as I could."

She was accosted as she walked down a path, which she described as a "short cut" from her home in suburban Alberta City to the bus line.

After freeing herself from the Negro's grasp, the athletically inclined student dashed for help, and persons living near by called police.

Banks' arrest followed within two hours. Solicitor De Graffenreid, who accompanied the arresting officers to Banks' home, said the Negro readily admitted his identity and the crime.

A throng estimated at 300 persons milled about the courthouse and the jail yard during Friday night, but no effort was made to take the Negro from the jail

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GHTS OFF NEGRO REVENTS ATTACK

SCALOOSA, Ala., July 20.—(AP) A comely University of Alabama co-ed today kicked her way out of the clutches of a burly negro, later captured, who attempted to attack her near her home on the outskirts of the city.

Constitution 7-21-34 Atlanta Ga.

The negro was taken as posses swarmed over the countryside and feeling ran high.

He gave his name as Ed Banks to Solicitor Edward deGraffenried, and was quoted by the solicitor as having confessed to the attempted attack.

Miss Mary Tate Kicker, 20, athletically inclined senior in the college of commerce, told of being accosted by the negro and of kicking him in the abdomen after having been thrown to the ground.

She was accosted as she walked along a path between her home and the bus line to town, she said.

"The negro had a hammer and threatened me with it," she went on. "I kicked him as hard as I could, and then ran."

NEGRO CHURCHMEN AID LEIBOWITZ MANEUVER TO DISRUPT DEFENSE

Mass March To Protest Scottsboro Verdict In N. Y. Saturday

By Sender Garlin

Four of the Scottsboro mothers, here to expose the conspiracy of Samuel Leibowitz and Negro misleaders and to mobilize mass sentiment for their framed-up sons, were yesterday barred from addressing a meeting of the International Ministers' Alliance held in the Salem M. E. Church, 129th St. and Seventh Ave.

Daily Worker

Escorted by Ben Davis, Jr., attorney for Angelo Herndon and editor of The Negro Liberator, the mothers appeared at the conference only to be insultingly informed that the ministers "prefer to listen to an intelligent report from authorized counsel of the boys," referring, apparently, to Samuel Leibowitz and the group of Negro misleaders who are seeking to wreck the Scottsboro defense.

While virtually slamming the door in the faces of the Scottsboro mothers, the Negro ministers took time to listen to a campaign speech by J. Dalmus Steele, Republican candidate for Assembly in the 21st A. D., Harlem. Later, after excluding the Scottsboro mothers as well as representatives of the press, the ministers' conference went into executive session to listen to an attack upon the International Labor Defense by George W. Chamlee, who has lined himself up with the Leibowitz gang.

When the Scottsboro mothers arrived, they were given seats near the chairman who, from the first, displayed considerable embarrassment at their presence. No sooner did the Negro women find seats than Rev. L. H. King, the most virulent enemy of the I. L. D. in Leibowitz's so-called "American-Scottsboro Committee," arose to move that the executive committee of the Ministers' Alliance to rule upon the advisability of permitting the mothers to speak. It was Rev. King and Rev. Bolden who had recently made the trip south to disrupt the mass fight for the Scottsboro boys by attempting to persuade the boys to repudiate the I. L. D. and place themselves in the hands of the Tammany politicians, Leibowitz and his cronies.

Asked Mothers To Leave

The chairman thereupon ruled that the Scottsboro mothers be asked to leave the conference and be "questioned" by Rev. A. C. Garner, representing the executive committee of the Ministers' Alliance. In an ante-room Garner was joined by Dr. George H. Haynes and three other ministers, who proceeded to bullyrag the harrassed mothers with a series of hostile questions. Typical of these was: "Do you know that the I. L. D. has collected hundreds of thousands of dollars and has made no accounting?"

When Ben Davis objected to this star-chamber proceeding, he was informed by the committee that he had no right to be present at the questioning. When Davis also objected to the presence of Haynes, the chairman of the committee suggested to the latter that he leave, at the same time ordering Davis to depart, also.

A few minutes later Rev. Garner returned to the meeting with the "recommendation" that the body declined to hear the Scottsboro mothers. Fearful of the public reaction to this step, Rev. Johnson said it would be "unfortunate if word went abroad that this conference refused to listen to these women, for whom we all of course have the most heartfelt sympathy." Rev. King thereupon moved—as an obvious maneuver to conceal their antagonism to the Scottsboro fight—that "the way be left open for these women to appear before this body," providing, of course, that the Executive Committee should so decide.

To Save Their Faces

Supporting King's motion, Rev. Johnson was tactless enough to blurt out that **"this procedure is absolutely necessary in order to save our faces in this matter."**

Johnson's remark upset Leibowitz's "Man Friday," Rev. King, to such an extent that the latter immediately moved that the gathering "go into executive session." This proposal was unanimously adopted and Ben Davis as well as the several reporters present were ordered to leave the conference.

Following the virtual ejection of the Scottsboro mothers from the conference, Davis issued a statement in which he bitterly denounced the action of the leaders of the Ministers' Alliance.

"Rev. King's heart bled so much for the Scottsboro boys that he made a special trip South as Leibowitz's emissary," Davis declared. "But when the Scottsboro mothers come from Atlanta, Chatanooga and other points in the South to present a plea for aid in the fight to save their boys these self-styled defenders of the Scottsboro defendants slam the door in their faces."

Mass March Saturday

"Defeat the most cruel and barbarous lynch verdict in our history," was the call sent out yesterday by the National Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committee for a city-wide mass march and demonstration in Harlem on Saturday noon, Nov. 3, for the safety and freedom of the Scottsboro boys.

Four of the Scottsboro mothers who at the Rockland Palace last Friday night exposed the traitorous alliance of Samuel S. Leibowitz, renegade defense attorney, William Davis, publisher of the Amsterdam News, and Reverends L. H. King, Richard Bolden, A. C. Garner and Dr. George E. Haynes, with Alabama lynch officials in the effort to disrupt the defense of the boys will speak at the meeting. Other speakers include Angelo Herndon and James W. Ford, Communist candidate in the 21st Congressional District.

Unions to March

Many organizations, realizing the acute situation created by the disruptive tactics of Leibowitz and the Negro misleaders, have endorsed the demonstration and called on their members to turn out en masse. Among these organizations are the Trade Union Unity Council, the Needle Trades Industrial Union, the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, Women's Councils, International Labor Defense and a number of workers' clubs.

All workers and participating organizations are asked to mobilize promptly at 1:30 p. m. this Saturday at Lenox Ave. and 126th St. for the demonstration and at the same time to send telegrams and resolutions immediately to President Roosevelt, and the U. S. Supreme Court at Washington, and to Gov. B. M. Miller of Alabama demanding the immediate, unconditional and safe release of the nine Scottsboro lads.

Vote Communist for a Soviet America!

'BACK I. L. D.,' 4 SCOTTSBORO MOTHERS URGE

Daily Worker

A stirring appeal for mass support in the fight to save the lives of the Scottsboro boys was made yesterday by four of the Scottsboro mothers—Mrs. Viola Montgomery, Mrs. Josephine Powell, Mrs. Ida Norris and Mrs. Ada Wright.

In their appeal the mothers of the framed-up Negro boys call for mass backing of the International Labor Defense and the Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committee. At the same time they urge Mrs. Janie Patterson, whose son, Haywood, is condemned to die in the electric chair on Dec. 7, to "join with us again under the banner of the organization that has saved the life of her boy as well as all our boys."

The appeal of the Scottsboro mothers follows:

10-29-34

"At this crisis in the fight for the lives of our boys, we, Scottsboro mothers, call upon all people to support the International Labor Defense and the National Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committee in the fight for the lives and freedom of all the nine innocent Scottsboro boys.

"We want only the I. L. D. and its lawyers to have charge of our boys' cases, because it has for more than three and a half years, with its worldwide mass protest, saved our boys' lives. In April 1931, when our boys were first framed on a fake rape charge, the I. L. D. came to our rescue when we were unable to help ourselves, and since then the I. L. D. has never failed us.

"Attorney Samuel Leibowitz and some New York Negro misleaders led by William H. Davis, publisher of the Amsterdam News, Reverends L. H. King, Richard Bolden, A. C. Garner, Dr. George E. Haynes, and others are trying to take control of the cases of our boys. We don't know what purpose they have in mind, but we do know that they have been having shady dealings with Attorney General Thomas Knight of Alabama and other enemies of our boys, helping them in their attempt to take our boys' cases away from the I. L. D. If they succeeded, we know that our boys will be left to the mercy of the lynchers. None of them ever turned a finger to help us or our boys in April, 1931, when our boys were first sentenced to die, nor any time since.

"We know that our boys alone in the Alabama jails are being lied to by Mr. Leibowitz and his crowd. Our boys have even been kept from seeing the I. L. D. attorneys, although Mr. Leibowitz and his crowd can see our boys any time they get ready. If our boys signed anything for Mr. Leibowitz we believe they did so because of these lies and trickery.

"Mr. William Davis has been telling lies, saying the I. L. D. is bulldozing us. But we want to say that the I. L. D. has never bulldozed us; and if it had not been for the I. L. D. our boys would have all been dead and we mothers would have had no help. We are sticking with the I. L. D. of our own free will and accord, because we know that only the I. L. D. can save our boys.

"We mothers condemn Mr. Leibowitz and his crowd as enemies of our boys and of the whole Negro race. We especially ask our people to block the underhand methods of these people to weaken the brave defense of our boys by the I. L. D. We ask all our sympathizers to support and contribute to the I. L. D. and the National Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committee, the only two organizations which we have authorized to collect money, and to do everything else connected with the defense of our boys.

"We especially appeal to Mrs. Janie Patterson, whose son Haywood with Clarence Norris is condemned to die on December 7, to join with us again under the banner of the organization that has saved the life or her boy as well as all our boys. We appeal to her not to be deceived by the lies, tricks and false promises of Mr. Leibowitz and his people.

"We know we are expressing the real heart-felt sentiment of our boys when we make this appeal to support the I. L. D. in the fight for their lives and freedom.

"We appeal to all mothers to help and support us and the I. L. D., for they do not know when their boys will be framed as ours are now.

"We feel that in fighting with the I. L. D. for the lives of our boys we are fighting in the best interest of our race. We ask all our sympathizers, Negro and white, to join with us in this fight.

(Signed) "Mrs. Viola Montgomery
Mrs. Josephine Powell
Mrs. Ida Norris
Mrs. Ada Wright."

Lynchings-1934

Arkansas

4620

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

"TORTURE" CASE TO COME UP FOR TRIAL

Commercial Appeal

Haywood Officials Accused of Using "Third Degree"

3-21-34

The notorious Haywood County "torture" case in which an ex-sheriff and 13 of his regular and special deputies are charged with torturing W. D. Smith of Osceola, Ark., and leaving him permanently injured in an attempt to force information from him will come before Judge Anderson in federal court tomorrow.

Smith, a former resident of Haywood County, is suing for $25,000 damages as the result of a beating at the hands of deputies working under former Sheriff Samuel T. Hunter, Jr., of Brownsville.

According to the bill, on Jan. 9 1932, Deputies Doc Chaney, Joe Laney, Rollins Moore, Festus Stoots George Bernard, Carl Chandler Henry Cowen, Jack Hunter, James Hunter, J. R. Laney, James K Richards, Carl Stewart and Walter Stewart, all named as defendants seized him on a warrant for the arrest of Ernest Shaw for the murder of John Stoots, and assault and battery with attempt to kill S T. Hunter, Jr.

"Buried In Flesh"

After seizing Smith, the bill continues, the deputies threatened to kill him, and "produced a rope about an inch and a half in diameter which they tied around the plaintiff's head and began to twist until the rope was buried in the flesh of his forehead and the plaintiff was almost dead from pain and exhaustion."

The rope was then removed, according to the bill, and James Hunter (a deputy) struck Smith twice with brass knuckles while they all cursed and abused him.

Joseph T. Costen, of Osceola, represents Smith, and Bailey Walsh Charles W. Anderson, Jr., William M. Hall and John T. Gray, Jr., of Brownsville, represent the defendants.

Pleads Not Guilty

A plea of not guilty was entered in federal court yesterday by attorneys for R. R. Bond, an attorney who is charged with violation of the World War Adjusted Compensation Act of 1924 on three counts The case was set for next Thursday.

Bond, who failed to show up for the arraignment before Judge Anderson, is at liberty under $2,000 bond. His attorneys, Bailey Walsh and Grover N. McCormick, entered the plea.

Bond is charged with forging the name of a negro client, Lizzie Jackson, to an adjusted compensation check for $501.66.

Under the law, Bond was only allowed $10 for his services in the case, as the claim was uncontested, but instead he retained $87 of the amount returned to the negro, officers said.

Stops Foreclosure

An injunction preventing foreclosure of the Central Garage building, 202 Union, was granted by Chancellor DeHaven yesterday. An application for appointment of a receiver has been withdrawn.

POSSE IDENTIFIED IN TORTURE TRIAL

Commercial Appeal

Haywood County Case Opens in Federal Court

3-23-34

A posse of "vigilantes," charged with permanently injuring a tenant farmer while acting under orders from Sheriff Samuel T. Hunter, Jr., of Brownsville, were identified by their alleged victim and his brother-in-law in federal court yesterday as the notorious Haywood County "torture" trial opened before Judge Anderson.

Standing in front of the defendants in the $25,000 damage suit, W. D. Smith of Burdette, Ark., formerly of Haywood County, pointed out each in turn as members of the posse which he claims twisted a rope around his head until it was "buried in the flesh" and struck him with brass knuckles in an effort to learn the location of a still.

Moved to Arkansas

Smith moved to Arkansas to get a fair trial in federal court, according to his attorney, Joseph T. Costen of Osceola. Smith's brother-in-law, U. S. Hickerson of Brownsville, likewise identified the men.

But Hickerson caused a titter to pass through the courtroom by including Deputy U. S. Marshal Jesse Berg as one of the defendants.

"He was one of them going down into the bottoms. They said his name was Richards," Hickerson said of Mr. Berg under the skillful cross-examination of Lawrence Morgan, chief defense attorney, of Brownsville.

The "bottoms" referred to by the witness are those on the old Major Shaw place, 10 miles east of Brownsville, where Smith charges he was tortured. The alleged crime took place on Jan. 10, 1932—four days after the murder of John H. Stoots of Brownsville and the near fatal shooting of Sheriff Hunter by Ernest Shaw, now serving a 10-year sentence on the former charge in the state penitentiary. Smith was a tenant on the Shaw farm.

Defendants Testify

Two of the defendants and admitted members of the posse, James and Jack Hunter, brothers of the sheriff, admitted on the stand that they had not been deputized to make the raid.

"We just got together that morning in Brownsville and agreed to go out to the Shaw place," said James Hunter, who is named in the bill as the "deputy" who struck Shaw with the knuckles. Hunter admitted "slapping" him with his open hand and having a pistol, but denied striking him with the knuckles.

"I wasn't armed—not on Sunday I wasn't," the other brother said, to which Judge Anderson retorted, "Well, I don't carry a pistol during Lent myself."

H. C. (Doc) Chaney, testifying that he was not a member of the posse, and Rawlings Moore, who admitted being present but saw no evidence of anyone torturing Smith, were the only other defendants taking the stand yesterday.

Other Defendants

The remaining defendants, all of Brownsville, who will testify this morning, are: Sheriff Hunter, Joe Laney, Festus Stoots, George Bernard, Carl Chandler, Henry Cowen James K. Richards, J. R. Laney Carl Stewart and Walter Stewart A number of character witnesses will also be called.

Dr. R. T. Keeton, of Brownsville, Smith's family physician for a number of years, said that on the day of the alleged torturing he treated Smith for numerous injuries.

Tom Moon, Shep, Tenn., who accompanied Smith when he was taken into the bottoms, heard him "begging" in the garage or shed where Smith was reputedly taken for "questioning." The case is expected to go to the jury by noon today.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
TRIBUNE
APR 28 1934

PARENTS SUE IN LYNCH DEATH

Ask $10,000 From Sheriff, Bondsmen, Charging Negligence

Claiming damages for the death of their son at the hands of a mob in Assumption parish the night of October 11, 1933, Louis Moore and his wife, Lilly Moore, Negroes, residents of Arkansas, yesterday filed suit against Lezin H. Himel, sheriff of Assumption parish, and the surety on his bond, the United States Fidelity and Guaranty company. The plaintiffs ask $10,000.

No date for a hearing on the matter was set yesterday by Federal Judge Borah.

The petition alleged that the son, Fred Moore, 16, was hanged by a mob at the Labadieville bridge over Bayou Lafourche on the night of October 11, after he had been arrested and accused of the murder of Miss Annie Mae Larose, a white girl.

The body of the girl, with the throat cut, was found on October 10 in a cane field near Labadieville. A mob appeared at the jail in Napoleonville that night, the petition stated, and demanded that Moore be turned over to them, but dispersed when Sheriff Himel refused.

The next day the mother saw the sheriff and begged him to take care of her son, according to the petition, and he allegedly promised her that no harm would come to the boy. The petition further alleged that the sheriff was aware of the danger, that he had sufficient time in which to put a strong guard around the jail, or to remove the youth to another jail, "where no excitement prevailed and there was no danger of mob violence."

Another mob formed the following night and, going to the home of Deputy Sheriff Landry, demanded and obtained the keys to the jail, the petition set forth. They then went to the jail, took young Moore and hanged him after "torturing and beating him, causing him excruciating pain and untold agony," the petition set forth.

The petition alleged that the Negro youth was innocent, that "shortly thereafter the stepfather of the murdered girl was arrested and confessed he had committed the crime."

Johnston Armstrong, attorney for the plaintiff, stated that no disposition has been made of the stepfather's case.

Concluding with the allegation that there was no deputy sheriff on the jail premises the night the mob hanged Moore and that the sheriff was "grossly negligent," the petition asked for judgment to the extent of $6000, the amount of the bond for the sheriff from his bondsmen, and $4000 damages additional from the sheriff himself.

California

4621

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Jury Says Lynching Evidence Is Lacking

Telegraph

SAN JOSE, Calif., Jan. 18. (AP)—Because of "inadequate" evidence the Santa Clara county grand jury indicted no one for the lynching of two accused kidnap-slayers of Brooke L. Hart.

1-9-34

In a resolution adopted at the conclusion of its investigation the grand jury said evidence presented was "totally inadequate to justify indictments against any person." The resolution said, however, the jury was ready to hear "any definite" evidence which may be presented in the future.

Widow of Lynched Slayer Sues Rolph; Seeks $1,050,000 From Governor and Others

Times

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 20.—The double lynching at San Jose in November of the confessed slayers of Brooke Hart had a sequel in Superior court today when Mrs. Evelyn Holmes, widow of one of the lynched men, filed suit for $1,050,000 damages against Governor James Rolph Jr. and others. Joined with Mrs. Holmes in the action are her children, David, 6, and Joyce, 5.

Other defendants are The San Jose News, radio station KQW and its owners, Charles O'Brien Jr., companion of Brooke Hart Sheriff William J. Emig, H. Collins and Frank Rafferty, his deputies Dr. Adolph B. Canelo, Paul Maggi, Anthony Cataldo, Robert Delmas, John Schiro and 100 "Does."

The first ten of the "Does" are members of the San Francisco Police Department who delivered Holmes and Thurman to the Santa Clara County jail after they had been brought to San Francisco for safe keeping.

The complaint declares that no warrant or indictment had been issued against the men, that they were returned to San Jose "for the purpose of facilitating the lynching."

Governor Rolph is said in the complain to have announced that protection would not be afforded the slayers and that he would pardon any person who assisted in lynching them.

The San Jose News and the radio station are accused of inciting the lynching.

Sheriff Emig is accused of having "abetted and encouraged the mob" and of withdrawing protection from his prisoners. He is also accused of disarming his deputies, and the complaint says he "connived, consented and assisted the mob to remove his prisoner and murder him in said lynching."

The complaint charges that the defendants "murdered the said John M. Holmes by hanging without lawful authority."

Of the damages sought $50,000 is actual and the balance exemplary.

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
April 24, 1934

Lynching Suit

While congress considers new legislation to prevent lynching, one provision of which calls for monetary penalties for counties in which lynchings occur, an interesting suit has been filed in California courts by the widow of one of two men lynched there.

Governor Rolph, Jr., is named in the suit as one of numerous defendants the complaint charging him with aiding and abetting the lynching in inciting the public mind by statements that he would offer no protecton to the two defendants.

It will be recalled that Governor Rolph attained widespread publicity, favorable and unfavorable, when he characterized the lynching as "the best lesson California has ever given the country."

Mrs. Evelyn Holmes, widow of John M. Holmes, lynched at San Jose following his arrest in connection with the kidnapping and slaying of Brooke L. Hart, young San Jose merchant, filed the suit. Its outcome is watched with interest throughout the nation.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
April 21, 1934

Suit Asks $1,050,000 In San Jose Lynching

SAN FRANCISCO, April 20.—(UP)—The lynching of two men by a mob of 5,000 persons at San Jose, Calif., last fall resulted today in a damage suit for $1,050,000 filed here against Governor James Rolph Jr., the San Jose News, radio station KQWN. 12 identified and 100 unidentified persons.

Mrs. Evelyn Holmes, widow of John M. Holmes, who was lynched with Thomas Thurmond after they allegedly confessed the kidnaping and slaying of Brooke Hart, son of a wealthy San Jose merchant, was plaintiff in the superior court suit.

Co-plaintiffs were the Holmes children, David and Joyce, minors. Damages of $50,000 were asked for loss of "the care, society, comfort and protection" of the husband and father, and $1,000,000 was asked because of the "wilful, felonious, malicious and oppressive" action of the defendants.

Miami, Fla. Herald
April 24, 1934

RATHER HIGHLY VALUED

THAT victim of a lynching in San Jose seems to have been a pretty valuable man, after all.

It will be remembered that, last November, a young man of San Jose was kidnaped and murdered. Two men were arrested and confessed the crime, whereupon outraged citizens of the town assembled, one night, forced the jail and hung the kidnapers and murderers to trees in a city park.

Now the widow of one of them, Holmes, is suing the governor of the state, the sheriff of the county and more than 100 other defendants, in the rather neat sum of $1,050,000 damages for the loss of her husband.

Allegations of the declaration filed in the case are to the effect that Governor Rolph refused to afford protection to the prisoners before the lynching; that the sheriff failed in his duty in preventing the lynching; that a newspaper by its inciting editorials aroused the lynching crowd; that a radio station also aided in creating lynching sentiment among the people, and that certain police officials removed the accused after their arrest from San Francisco to San Jose, all of which, it is insisted, was conniving, assisting and consenting in the lynching that subsequently took place.

While the case is regularly before the courts it is hardly proper to comment upon it, but a suspicion may be entertained that no jury on earth would award damages for the death of so utterly depraved a man as Holmes seems to have been, at least as his confession revealed him to be. He was worse than worthless to society and his extinguishment was a loss to nobody except the widow with whom we may sympathize and still think the value placed upon her late husband rather high.

BINGHAMTON, N. Y.
SUN
APR 28 1934

A Lynching Lawsuit

AN unusual sequel to an unusual lynching develops in California. The widow of one of the two victims lynched at San Jose last November brings suit against Governor Rolph and other officials for $1,050,000. Of this sum $50,000 is demanded as "actual damages' 'and the rest as "punitive damages." The defendants include the sheriff from whose custody the prisoners were taken, a newspaper, a radio station and various unnamed individuals, who are accused of encouraging or tolerating the lynching.

It doesn't seem likely that a suit like this can win, in the present state of the public mind regarding kidnapers, whether in California or elsewhere. But the attempt is interesting as a new factor in the lynching business. Sooner or later it may become possible to collect damages in cases where mob killings have been abetted by officials whose duty it was to prevent them. An oath of office and a sense of duty should make any official do his best to preserve legal processes and uphold established law against mob law. But where such virtues are lacking, a few heavy personal suits might work wonders for law and order.

Lynchings-1934

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Florida

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Justice Again Goes Astray

11-13-34

The grand jury of Jackson County, Florida reported Friday that Claude Neal, the Negro who was lynched on October 19, came to his death by persons unknown.

It will be remembered that Neal, charged with attacking and killing a white woman, was removed by a mob from the Brewton, Alabama, jail and the next morning his body, mutilated with knives and pierced by bullets, was strung from a tree on the Jackson county court house square.

Governor Sholtz, declaring, "we do not condone lynching in Florida," ordered an investigation by the grand jury and said "some of the ringleaders of the mob are supposed to be known."

The grand jury in its report said it was not able to get much direct or positive information with reference to the lynching, practically all the evidence being hearsay and rumors.

It then solemnly declared it found that the victim of the Negro was brutally attacked and that the Negro came to his death "at the hands of a small group of persons unknown to us." The jury finds that the sheriff of the county did everything within his power to protect his prisoner, "and we commend him for his action in performing his duty."

No person suspected of being a member of the mob ever was arrested.

And this is the result of a legal inquiry into one of the most atrocious crimes ever committed in this country. Thousands of persons, at one time or another, were members of the mob, the leaders of which sent out invitations to the lynching. The Negro was held practically all day before he was tortured and killed. With fiendish bravado, the body was strung up before the very door of what we sometimes call the temple of justice.

The sheriff of the county is commended for having done his duty and yet, hour after hour, while the Negro was in custody of the mob, the officer refused to call out the national guard. The troops were only called after the crime had been committed and there was fear that violence would break out among members of the mob itself.

The crime itself was bad enough, but the action of a grand jury in failing to indict a single member of the mob, although many of them must have been well known, is absolutely inexcusable.

The women of Florida who protested against this crime pointed out that there had been forty lynchings in that state within comparatively recent years and not one single person had been punished. It seems that the same is about to become true of the latest and most damnable of these outrages.

This failure of justice is merely bringing nearer the adoption of a federal anti-lynching bill, and the sooner it comes the better it will be.

AN AMUSING INCIDENT

12-10-34

News note—"Montgomery, Alabama. Governor B. M. Miller today directed officials to call a special session of the grand jury, November 19, at Brewton to investigate the removal from Escambia county jail of Claude Neal, colored, who later was lynched near Greenwood, Florida."

The above announcement would be humorous were it not for the fact that the criminal aspect involved renders it serious. It must be quite interesting to the sheriff at Brewton to be directed by Governor Miller to investigate the lynching of Claude Neal. It would be quite serious if the sheriff a. Brewton should take the governor's instructions in earnest.

But fortunately for the sheriff and his friends who have acquaintances and relatives whose names might figure prominently as leaders and organizers of the mob, they all know that if there is a grand jury investigation, it will be a farce, a travesty upon justice and that its findings will consist of fraud and perjury; that the sheriff, himself, who knows the lynchers, who admitted receiving letters from the lynch committee and conferring with them, will not go before the grand jury and attempt to convict these criminals.

It has been intimated that the sweetheart of the girl murdered was responsible for her death, but this point will never be investigated. The money to be spent for this investigation by the state of Alabama will be a waste not only of the money but of energy and effort and respectability as well.

Florida Sheriffs Called Before Jury

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Nov. 6 (AP) Two Florida sheriffs will appear as witnesses before the Escambia county, Alabama, grand jury, when it begins an investigation on Nov. 19 into the removal of Claude Neal, Negro, from the Brewton, Ala., jail by a mob.

11/7/34

Gov. B. M. Miller of Alabama today asked Gov. Dave Sholtz of Florida to have Sheriff H. E. Gandy of Escambia county, Florida, and appear before the Alabama grand jury. Governor Sholtz said he would instruct the two sheriffs to attend the investigation.

Neal, charged with killing a white woman near Marianna, Fla., was removed from the Brewton jail by a mob Oct. 26. The next morning his body, mutilated with knives and pierced by bullets was strung from a tree on the courthouse square at Marianna.

Macon, Ga.

Governor of Florida Moves to Whitewash Claude Neal's Killers

Orders Grand Jury to Wait Another Week Before Starting Probe of Inter-State Lynching

11-17-34

MARIANNA, Fla., Nov. 11.—The whitewashing of the fiendish lynching of Claude Neal, Negro youth, is proceeding according to the usual capitalist schedule, with Governor Dave Scholtz of Florida absolving Sheriff W. F. Chambliss for his decisive part in the lynching.

Governor B. M. Miller of Alabama has ordered a Grand Jury to wait until Nov. 19 before beginning an investigation of the delivery of Neal to the lynchers by the sheriff and jailer of Brewton, Ala.

Meanwhile, the Federal government remains unmoved by demands for federal prosecution of the lynchers under the "Lindbergh Law," which provides the death penalty for interstate kidnappers. The law has been vigorously used by the Federal government for the prosecution of the kidnappers of rich men.

In a statement which Governor Scholtz has had mimeographed for mailing to the thousands of organizations and individuals who have voiced their protest against his inaction and protection of the lynchers, he "deplores" the lynching as "unnecessary" and points with pride to the record of his state courts in legal lynchings of Negroes.

The governor's statement proudly relates how a lynch-trial of a Negro framed on a rape charge was rushed through and the legal-lynching through, within 33 days.

Governor Scholtz excuses himself for failure to act to prevent the lynch of Neal on the pretext that he could not have prevented it anyway.

Marianna, however, is located between Tallahassee, the capital of the State, and Pensacola, a naval reserve base, and is easily accessible to troops from either point within a fraction of the 36 hours that elapsed between the advertising of the lynching and its consummation.

Grand Jury Called To Weigh Lynching

Advertiser

In compliance with the written request of Gov. Miller transmitted by him by mail last Saturday, Circuit Judge F. W. Hare, of Monroeville, has called a special session of the Escambia County Grand Jury to convene on Monday, Nov. 19, to investigate removal from the county jail at Brewton recently by a mob of Claude Neal, Florida negro, who had been brought there for safekeeping and who was later lynched and his body strung up in the courthouse yard at Marianna, Fla.

11-6-34

The Governor received yesterday from Judge Hare a copy of his official order for the convening of the Grand Jury which will be called upon to ascertain whether the laws of Alabama have been violated by any person connected directly or indirectly with the jail delivery in which the Florida prisoner was forcibly removed from the jail and lynched.

Investigation will also be made by the Grand Jury of reports that the lynching took place in Alabama instead of Florida. The generally accepted belief is, however, that after the negro had been taken back by the mob to Greenwood, Fla., where he was charged with criminally assaulting and murdering a young white girl, the lynching occurred near that place.

FLORIDA SHERIFFS IN LYNCHING PROBE

Officers Asked To Appear Before Alabama Jury

11-7-34

By United Press.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Nov. 7.—Gov. Dave Sholtz today asked the sheriffs at Pensacola and Marianna to appear Nov. 19 before an Alabama grand jury investigating the lynching of Claude Neal, negro.

The request was sent to the two Florida sheriffs at the suggestion of Gov. B. M. Miller of Alabama.

GRAND JURY TO PROBE LYNCHING OF SLAYER

State Responsibility To Be Fixed In Escambia County

11-7-34

By United Press.

MONTGOMERY, Nov. 7.—A special session of the Escambia county circuit court will convene Nov. 19 by Governor Miller's command to probe Alabama's responsibility in the lynching of Claude Neal, negro, near Marianna, Fla.

A mob stormed the Brewton, Ala., jail, captured Neal, who apparently had been unofficially brought into the state, and returned him to Marianna.

Circuit Solicitor Hugh M. Caffey, of Brewton, sent statements of witnesses to the governor last week and he immediately instructed the solicitor to call the grand jury.

Neal was taken from a jail at Brewton, Ala., where he was being held for safekeeping.

Governor Miller said he was anxious for the grand jury to determine whether the negro was lynched in Alabama or Florida.

Mobmen Not Named In Florida Lynching

MARIANNA, Fla., Nov. 9 (AP)—The Jackson county grand jury reported today that Claude Neal, a negro, was lynched by "persons unknown to us."

Neal, charged with attacking and killing a white woman, was removed by a mob from the Brewton (Ala.) jail on October 19, and the next morning his body, mutilated with knives and pierced by bullets, was strung from a tree on the Jackson county courthouse square here.

Governor Dave Sholtz, declaring "we do not condone lynching in Florida," ordered an investigation by the grand jury, and said "some of the ring leaders of the mob are supposed to be known." He did not announce the source of this information.

St. Augustine, Fla., Record
November 14, 1934

To Be Expected

It was to be expected that the Jackson County grand jury would report that Claude Neal, a negro, was lynched by "persons unknown to us." Governor Dave Sholtz, declaring "We do not condone lynching in Florida," ordered an investigation by the grand jury and said "some of the ring leaders of the mob are supposed to be known." Mob identity is one of the most difficult things on earth to prove. One or more persons may see and think they know identities. Sometimes their lips are sealed through fear, but more often because there is always the possibility that they may be mistaken, and they dare not utter an accusation that might prove false.

Madison, Fla., Recorder
November 16, 1934

Grand Jurors Fail to Find Lynchers

The Jackson County grrand jury reported on November 9 that Claude Neal, a negro, was lynched by "persons unknown to us." Neal, charged with killing a white woman, was removed by a mob from Brewton, Ala., jail on October 19, and the next morning his body was strung from a tree on the Jackson County courthouse square at Marianna.

Lynchers' Identity Revealed to U.S.

Afro American

NEW YORK.—The names of three of the alleged lynchers of Claude Neal of Marianna were turned over to Attorney-General Homer S. Cummings and Governors Sholtz of Florida and Miller of [illegible] by the NAACP, whose investigator has just rendered a 5000-word report of the gruesome proceedings.

One of the ringleaders is said to have arranged with friends in Pensacola to have word sent to him when Neal was removed from jail there to the Brewton (Ala.) jail. Another ringleader is prominent in local civic bodies.

Woman Identified

A clerk in a filling station, who admittedly attended the lynching, has identified the woman who rushed out of the Cannidy house and plunged a butcher knife into the heart of the Neal corpse, when it was thrown by the mob into the Cannidy front yard.

The association submits that these leads will give operatives of the Bureau of Investigation clues as to where information sufficient to indict and convict the kidnapers may be secured.

Copy of Report on Fla. Lynch Probe Sent to President

Afro American

NEW YORK.—President Roosevelt and Attorney-General Homer S. Cummings were sent Friday, a verbatim copy of the 5,000-word report of an investigation of the lynching on October [illegible], at Marianna, Fla., of Claude Neal, [illegible]

Accompanying the document, the N.A.A.C.P. sent copies of a New York Evening Post editorial of November 19, entitled, "Legalistic Fiddlesticks," in which the failure of the Department of Justice to act in the Neal lynching and the excuses given by Attorney-General Cummings, were excoriated and ridiculed.

In its letter to the President, the association called attention to the twelve-hour torture of Neal, the mob of from four to seven thousand persons from eleven Southern states, and the participation of children, who plunged sharpened sticks into the body of the mob victim.

"The complete failure of the state and county machinery to prevent this lynching," the association stated, "establishes, as nothing else could, that it is imperative for Congress to pass the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill immediately upon its convening in January.

MILLER ORDERS LYNCHING PROBE

Post

Governor Demands Escambia Officials Explain Why Negro Was Taken

10-30-34

By United Press.

MONTGOMERY, Oct. 30.—Escambia county officials, at the order of Governor Miller, today opened an investigation into the storming of the Brewton jail last Friday by a mob which took Claude Neal, negro, to Jackson county, Florida, where he was later lynched for assaulting and killing a white girl.

The governor late yesterday requested an explanation from Circuit Judge F. W. Hare and Solicitor Hugh M. Caffey, Jr., as to why they did not notify him of the incident. His letter said:

"Information has reached me through the newspapers, that on Friday, Oct. 26, a prisoner was brought into Alabama by officials of the state of Florida and was placed in jail in Brewton, Ala., I had no official report of the matter.

"I learned further from the newspapers that a mob from the state of Florida came into Alabama and took this prisoner and carried him into Florida where he was lynched.

"Will you please have a thorough investigation made to ascertain whether or not the law was violated by the sheriff of Escambia county, or any of his deputies, or by anyone else?

Lynchings—1934
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Florida

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4705

LYNCH PROBE SHOWS NO ATTACK EVIDENCE

TAMPA, Fla., Feb. 22.—(AP)—State Attorney J. Rex Farrior was today promised unlimited authority by state and county officials in his pursuit of the persons who shot and killed Robert Johnson, negro, in the suburbs shortly before dawn Tuesday morning.

After a conference with Circuit Judge L. L. Parks and other law officers, Farrior said he had been assured of their support in his efforts to bring before the grand jury witnesses whom he wished to examine but who might object.

The grand jury today stood recessed until Monday. It had examined more than a dozen witnesses, Farrior said, and had found nothing to indicate that Johnson had been guilty of attempting to attack a young white woman a week or more ago.

[illegible]lyn, N. Y. E[illegible]

[illegible] 1934

Lynching Inquiry Ordered in Florida

Tallahassee, Fla., Jan. 31 (AP)—Gov. Dave Sholtz, stating "we do not condone the crime of lynching in Florida," has demanded an immediate investigation into the lynching of Robert Johnson, Negro, at Tampa yesterday.

SHOLTZ DIRECTS LYNCHING PROBE

Florida Governor Orders Action After Negro Is Taken From Deputy and Killed

Telegraph
Macon Ga
31-34

TAMPA, Fla., Jan. 30 (AP)—Hillsborough county authorities, ordered to act by Governor Dave Sholtz, said today's lynching of a Negro here by a group of unmasked men will be "thoroughly investigated" tomorrow by the county grand jury as well as by a coroner's jury.

Robert Johnson, Negro, was shot five times and killed early today. Deputy Constable T. M. Graves said the mob took the Negro from him as he was transferring the man from the city jail to the county jail between 2:30 and 3:15 a.m. He said he was forced to accompany the lynchers while they took the Negro to a wooded section on the outskirts of the city.

Johnson, arrested Sunday for an alleged criminal attack on a young white woman, also was charged in two warrants with petty theft in connection with stealing chickens. Officers said the young woman had identified clothing worn by Johnson as the same as that worn by her attacker but that the criminal assault case still was under investigation. They said Johnson was being transferred from one jail to another on the larceny charges.

Held Up By Unmasked Men

Graves said he made the transfer at that early hour because he had been busy on another case and had forgotten that he had warrants calling for delivery of the Negro to the county jail. He placed the Negro in his car, he said, and started for the county jail but three automobiles blocked his path at a street intersection.

Three unmasked men, he said, covered him with guns and forced him to lie on the floor of his car. One of the three, he said, drove the car and kept the Negro in the front seat with him. The two others, he said, sat in the rear seat, holding him on the floor with their feet. He de-

Lynching

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

clared he did not recognize any of the men.

Investigation Ordered

Telegraph
Macon Ga
31-34

ATLANTA, Jan. 30 (AP)—Gov. Dave Shoitz of Flirad wired the Association of Southern Women for Prevention of Lynching here today an assurance that every effort would be made to arrest and punish those responsible for lynching in Tampa.

The telegram, addressed to Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive director of the association, was in reply to one the organization had dispatched urging decisive action in the case. The governor's reply read:

"The deplorable lynching which took place in Tampa early this morning came out of a clear sky without prior warning or knowledge of this office that it was anticipated. So there was no occasion or opportunity to prevent it by the use of troops. I have directed both the sheriff and the state's attorney to make a speedy and complete investigation to the end that justice may be meted out to these murderers in accordance with the laws of the state and I will use every power at my command to the end that the perpetrators of this crime are punished and to prevent further lynchings in Florida."

The telegram sent the governor by the women's group earlier today had pointed out that the Florida chief executive only last Thursday told a committee there would be no lynchings if he had "two hours to get troops to the scene of the disturbance," and that he would use his power to the utmost to punish lynchers.

MIAMI, FLA.
HERALD
FEB 1 1934

FLORIDA LYNCHING

INVESTIGATION of the disgraceful lynching at Tampa should include the possibility of complicity between the law and the lawless, for it does not seem likely the killing would have occurred otherwise. Gov. Dave Sholtz has promptly demanded a probe and action on part of the Hillsborough county authorities to ferret out the guilty and punish them. This inexcusable shooting has placed Florida in the lynch column and without the justification afforded by court leniency.

The victim, Robert Johnson, a negro, was held for chicken theft, which is hardly a capital offense, and was suspected of an attack upon a white woman, although this was not proved and he was not formally charged with that crime.

The negro was in the city jail and for some reason it was decided to transfer him to the county jail. T. M. Graves, deputy constable, said he forgot about the case until about 2:30 in the morning, when he took the prisoner out. Immediately his automobile was blocked by other cars and the negro was taken from him while he, the constable, was made captive. Other motor cars joined the cavalcade which carried the negro to the outskirts of the city and shot him to death.

That mob murder could not have been accomplished without some sort of understanding. The lynchers would have had no knowledge of the prisoner's removal at such a time and been prepared unless they were tipped off. There was no excuse for the removal in the middle of the night and by a single deputy.

If the law did not deliberately connive in the crime, it miserably blundered in being ignorant of any feeling in the community and in opening the way for the lynching by the careless method of transfer. It was the duty of the officials to protect their prisoner. Apparently the constable made no such efforts.

Tampa's failure has brought shame to the entire state of Florida, and it may rest assured that the North and the radicals will make the most of the crime. The only way to atone for it now is to find the guilty and punish them, and that includes the officer or officers responsible for easing the road to slaughter.

Jacksonville, Fla.
JOURNAL
FEB 22 1934

JURY STUDYING TAMPA LYNCHING

Unable to Find Evidence of A Mob

(2)

TAMPA, Fla., Feb. 22.—(AP)—Unable to find evidence of a mob "in the usual sense of the term," the Hillsborough county grand jury investigating the slaying of Robert Johnson, negro, here in the early morning hours of January 30 was in recess today.

Its report to Judge W. T. Harrison in circuit court said it found no evidence on which to base an indictment although it condemned the practice of transfering prisoners from one jail to another "at unusual hours of the night." Johnson was taken from T. M. Graves, acting deputy constable, early in the morning and was shot to death by a group of unmasked men.

Graves was taken to task for "the lack of precaution, diligence and courage, as well as his apparent gross negligence in protecting and defending his custody of the negro." The grand jury also said Graves had no authority as a law officer.

The jurors expressed a willingness to continue the investigation and the judge commended this spirit and recessed the deliberations until next Wednesday.

TAMPA, FLA.
TRIBUNE
FEB 14 1934

Negro Ministers Protest

The Interdenominational Alliance of Negro Ministers of Tampa has adopted resolutions asking thorough investigation of the murder of Johnson and vigorous prosecution of any person or persons found to implicated in that crime.

The resolutions set forth:

Because of the negro being a law-abiding citizen, generally;

Because of the fair attitude on the part of the leading white citizens toward the negro residents of Tampa;

Because of the outrage committed Tuesday morning, January 30, when an officer of the law at the city prison released to a man in the wee hours of the morning, a helpless negro prisoner;

Because of the fair name of Florida, our county and our city having been besmirched with this heinous act; and

Because of the helplessness in which the better class of negroes find themselves;

Be it resolved that the Interdemoninational Negro Ministers Alliance unanimously adopts this resolution urging the officers of the law to use every means to fix the responsibility for the act, cause the guilty person or persons to pay the extreme penalty, and to make life more secure for the negro citizens of Tampa, Hillsborough county, and of Florida.

The asking of the negro ministers is a just one. As we have said, Tampa has an unusually law-abiding negro population. The city has been free for many years of any semblance of race conflict. The white citizens of Tampa, through their white officials, should exert every effort to punish the perpetrators of the outrage, which, from all accounts, was not a lynching, not a mob execution, but a cold-blooded, deliberate murder.

TAMPA, FLA.
TRIBUNE

FEB 23 1934

No Indictment

After an investigation of the killing of Robert Johnson, covering eight days, the Grand Jury reported that it was "unable to find evidence which was sufficient, in our opinion, to find a true bill against anyone."

The Grand Jury did find that there was not the "slightest evidence" that "a mob, in the usual sense of the term," committed the crime. This goes to confirm the general belief that Johnson was not the victim of a mob, inflamed by passion or vengeance, but of a cold-blooded, premeditated murder. As such, the killing cannot properly or truthfully be classified or counted as a lynching.

The Grand Jury also found that T. M. Graves, who took the negro from the city jail and was supposed to be conveying him to the county jail, on a trumped-up charge of chicken stealing, "had no commission or authority of any kind" as an officer, therefore was usurping the functions and prerogatives of an officer, and "unanimously condemns the lack of precaution, diligence and courage on the part of T. M. Graves, as well as his apparent gross negligence in protecting and defending his custody of the negro." The Grand Jury also unanimously condemns the "practice of transferring prisoners from one jail to another at unusual hours of the night." At least, it appears, Graves could be prosecuted for impersonating an officer.

The facts remain that there was no charge or evidence connecting Johnson either with criminal assault or with stealing chickens; and that he was foully murdered. The familiar verdict of "persons unknown" doubtless will stand in this case; and it will take its place on the long list of unpunished crimes in this county and state.

There has not appeared, anywhere in the case, any evidence of a motive which any person or persons may have had for killing this helpless and friendless negro. It has not developed that he could possibly have been of sufficient importance to make his death desirable or advantageous to anyone. That he was not killed because of any connection with a criminal assault or any other statutory offense is clear. There must have been some other reason—but what?

Just another unsolved mystery—and another black mark on the record of Tampa and Florida.

MEMPHIS, TENN.
COMMERCIAL APPEAL

FEB 23 1934

Just What They Want

The Florida grand jury, which, after a three weeks' investigation, reported that it had not been able to find evidence of "mob" violence or lynching in the death of a negro at Tampa on Jan. 30, has given those urging passage of the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill the material they want.

The negro had first been suspected of a crime against a girl. A police investigation cleared him. While he was still in the Tampa city jail a county constable called for him in the early morning hours and took charge of him on a warrant charging chicken stealing. An hour later the constable returned to say that a band of men took his prisoner from him and killed him.

The grand jury was content to confine its findings to a criticism of the constable for "acting without authority" in claiming the prisoner, and the city police for permitting prisoners to be released at late hours.

Hearing is being held at Washington on the anti-lynching bill. It is said that some of those suspected of having been involved in the Tampa crime will be summoned to testify.

The Wagner-Costigan bill is unwise. It is unfair in its punitive phases. It would deprive states of very definite rights, but if those who know it to be unwise, and those who do not wish it to pass really desire to prevent its passage, they will go the limit in proving that prevention of lynching is a local responsibility. This was demonstrated by Governor Conner and Mississippi last week.

TAMPA, FLA.
TRIBUNE

MAR 1 1934

Was It a "Gang"?—After three weeks investigation the Grand Jury at Tampa reported yesterday that it could not fix the guilt for the lynching of the negro taken recently from the custody of a man transferring him from the city to the county jail in the early hours of the morning. The jury found "no evidence of a mob or lynching." Nevertheless, a negro was snatched from the care of an unauthorized officer, taken to the woods by a gang of unmasked men, and killed. Doubtless hundreds of people know their names. The public will get the shock of its life some time if an investigation group should actually get up enough courage to name a lyncher.—St. Petersburg Independent

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Orlando, Fla., Sentinel
March 25, 1934

A Problem for the Governor

A NEGRO WAS killed in Tampa late last January. He was being escorted by an officer of the sheriff's department from one jail to another at an early hour in the morning.

A grand jury investigated the affair, indicted no one. The officer says the negro was taken from him by a mob.

Tampa, and most of the state, has just about forgotten this incident, but the Association of southern women for the Prevention of Lynching seems to have a record of the matter.

They have written Gov. Sholtz again.

These women want to know whether the negro was lynched or murdered.

Probably Gov. Sholtz would like to know the same thing.

Pensacola, Fla. Journal
March 21, 1934

Women Ask Report On Tampa Lynching

(By The Associated Press)

Tallahassee, Mar. 20.—The Florida council of the association of southern women for the prevention of lynching today asked Governor Sholtz for a report on the investigation of the death of a negro prisoner in Tampa on Jan. 30.

The council, now in session in Jacksonville, wired the governor: "Has the state determined whether the crime at Tampa on Jan. 30 was a lynching or a murder? Your answer will be appreciated."

A negro prisoner was killed in Tampa while he was being transferred from the city jail to the county jail. An officer reported a mob took the negro from him. The county grand jury investigated the case but returned no indictment.

Orlando, Fla., Sentinel
March 21, 1934

TAMPA LYNCHING REPORT ASKED

Sholtz Gets Telegram From Women

TALLAHASSEE, March 20—(AP)—The Florida Council of the Ass'n of Southern Women for the prevention of lynching today asked Gov. Sholtz for a report on the investigation of the death of a negro prisoner in Tampa on Jan. 30.

The council, now in session in Jacksonville, wired the governor:

"Has the state determined whether the crime at Tampa on Jan. 30 was a lynching or a murder? Your answer will be appreciated."

A negro prisoner was killed in Tampa while he was being transferred from the city jail to the county jail. An officer reported a mob took the negro from him. The county grand jury investigated the case but returned no indictment.

The council's telegram was received today while Gov. Sholtz attended a meeting of the state pardon board. It has not yet been laid before him.

Mrs. William P. Connell, as chairman, headed the list of women who signed the message. Others were Miss Grace Donald, Mrs. W. F. Jones, Mrs. I. K. Kaplan, Mrs. M. M. Lander, Mrs. J. D. Russell, Mrs. T. H. Crawford, Mrs. John L. Oldham, and Mrs. O. I. Woodley.

TIMES
West Palm Beach
FEB 27 1934 Fla.

St. Petersburg Independent: After three weeks investigation the grand jury at Tampa reported yesterday that it could not fix the guilt for the lynching of the negro taken recently from the custody of a man transferring him from the city to the county jail in the early hours of the morning. The jury found "no evidence of a mob or lynching." Nevertheless, a negro was snatched from the care of an unauthorized officer, taken to the woods by a gang of unmasked men, and killed. Doubtless hundreds of people know their names. The public will get the shock of its life some time if an investigation group should actually get up enough courage to name a lyncher.

Florida.

Lynchings-1934

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

27

4706

NATIONAL GUARD EXPECTED TO BE EVACUATED SOON

Threat Of Second Hanging By Mob Is Believed Gone; Town Quiet

Advertiser

MILLER SEEKS TRUTH IN BREWTON JAIL INCIDENT

10-30-34

MARIANNA, FLA., Oct. 29.—(AP)—Investigation into the lynching of a negro near here last Saturday went forward in Florida and Alabama today as authorities considered evacuating National Guardsmen who have patrolled the courthouse and jail for the last three days because of threats of a second lynching.

Gov. B. M. Miller of Alabama ordered a probe into the circumstances of how a band of Floridians removed the negro, Claude Neal, from a Brewton Ala. jail where he had been taken for safe-keeping, brought him into Florida and put him to death.

Montgomery Adv.

Everything was calm in Marianna.

Neal, charged with assaulting and slaying a young woman near Greenwood recently, had been taken from jail to jail in northwest Florida recently before the officers finally lodged him in Brewton.

One company of the troops was withdrawn yesterday and the other was exdrawn yesterday and the other removed tonight. There was no indication of further demonstrations against Bud Gammon, negro accused of hitting a white man with a bottle here Saturday. Mob threats toward Gammon caused the troops to be rushed into the city.

The guardsmen were used today to escort M. F. Dudley and Buford Mears into Circuit Court here. Both were given life sentences for robbery of a bank at Malone, Fla., recently. Mears also is charged with slaying David Hamm, a deputy sheriff, in an attempted escape after his conviction on the robbery charge. Fears of a demonstration against Mears caused officers to take precautions.

Circuit Judge Amos Lewis today called the Jackson County Grand Jury to meet next Monday to determine if Mears should be indicted for the deputy's death.

Harrison McKinney, third man convicted for the bank robbery, was fatally wounded in the shooting between Mears and Hamm.

NEW YORK, Oct. 29.—(AP)—Demands for the Federal prosecution of the lynchers of Claude Neal at Marianna, Fla., on Oct. 26 were sent to President Roosevelt tonight by the Writers' League Against Lynching and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Both organizations took issue with Atty Gen. Homer S. Cummings for refusing to proceed against the Florida lynchers on the ground the Federal kidnaping law applied only to cases where kidnaping is for ransom.

After stating the law was amended to read "for ransom, reward or otherwise," the Writers League telegraphed the President:

"We implore you to instruct the Attorney General to proceed under authority given him by the above law for the prompt investigation, apprehension, trial, and punishment of the lynchers."

The American Civil Liberties Union said "the lynching challenges the enforcement of the law with the same relentlessness shown in the Stoll and Lindbergh cases."

Similar protests were sent to Atty Gen. Cummings and Gov. David Sholtz of Florida by the League.

Alabama Governor Seeks Sift Of Events At Brewton In Lynching Preamble

Advertiser

10-30-34

Stating that though he received no official report of the matter, information has reached him through the press of the taking from the jail at Brewton by a Florida mob, of a negro brought by officers from that state to the Escambia County jail for safekeeping, and the subsequent lynching of the prisoner by members of the mob near Greenwood, Fla., Gov. Miller in a letter mailed yesterday morning to Circuit Judge F. W. Hare, of Monroeville, and Circuit Solicitor H. M. Caffey, of Brewton, requested that a thorough investigation be made to determine whether the sheriff of Escambia, any of his deputies, or anyone else, has violated the law.

Montgomery Adv.

10-30-34

The text of the Chief Executive's letter in which he requests further that if the law has been violated, the Grand Jury also investigate and take action, follows:

"Hon. P. W. Hare,
"Circuit Judge,
"Monroeville, Ala.,
"Hon. Hugh M. Caffey, Jr.,
"Circuit Solicitor,
"Brewton, Ala.
"Gentlemen:

'Information has reached me through the newspapers that on Friday, Oct. 26, a prisener was brought into Alabama by officials of the State of Florida and was placed in jail in Brewton, Ala. I had no official report of the matter.

"I learned further from the newspapers that a mob from the State of Florida came into Alabama and took this prisoner and carried him into Florida where he was lynched.

"Will you please have a thorough investigation made to ascertain whether or not the law was violated by the sheriff of Escambia County, or any of his deputies, or by any one else.

"If you find that the law has been violated please have the Grand Jury investigate and take action thereon.

"Yours very truly,
"B. M. MILLER,
"Governor."

FEDERAL INVESTIGATION NOT NEEDED

"It is little wonder," thinks The Washington Post, "that from the South itself have come appeals to Federal authorities to step in and safeguard the rights of American citizens."

Advertiser

The Washington paper is commenting on the recent lynching in Florida. It goes on to say:

10-31-34

Lynching is anarchy in that it deprives individuals of the rights guaranteed them by the government under which they live. It is a lawless manifestation against the written law of the State and the unwritten law of humanity. Under no circumstances can it be condoned. The appeal of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynchings, which runs contrary to the dislike of the South for Federal domination, throws into sharp emphasis the indignation of Florida's decent citizens over the shocking crime.

Montgomery Adv.

Of course, Federal authorities can not answer this appeal. The alleged kidnaping in this case does not seem to come within the realm of the Federal kidnaping law as there was no demand for ransom involved although State boundaries were crossed. The duty of bringing these mob murderers to justice rests entirely upon the State.

Undoubtedly Florida's tragedy will bring further demands for enactment of a Federal anti-lynching law. But such a measure is not in keeping with the political philosophy of this country. Local sentiment in the communities where lynching is recurrent would be so enraged as to make its enforcement as difficult as the enforcement of prohibition was in dominantly wet regions.

The South must work out the problem in its own way and within the borders of its own States. Federal intervention, now or at any time, might set back the alleged progress made against lynching in the last fifty years.

We are glad that a metropolitan newspaper beyond the Deep South realizes that the Federal Government must refuse the plea of the organizations which ask for Federal intervention in the case.

There is a difference in crimes against society—and society itself turning criminal.

It has been shown time after time that while the Southern States do not always solve their own problems, Federal intervention never helps, but aggravates the situation.

Miller Demands Brewton Inquiry

Advertiser

Orders Grand Jury Session To Sift Negro's Seizure And Place Of Lynching

11-4-34

Convening of a special session of the Escambia County Grand Jury on Nov. 19 to investigate removal from the jail at Brewton recently by a mob, of Claude Neal, Florida negro, who was later lynched near Greenwood in that State, was directed by Gov. Miller yesterday in a letter, copies of which were addressed to Circuit Judge F. W. Hare and Circuit Solicitor H. M. Caffey, Jr.

Montgomery Adv.

On the basis of statements by witnesses, submitted to him yesterday morning by the solicitor, the Chief Executive said he regarded the calling of the county inquisitorial body into extraordinary session as being absolutely necessary. Referring to press reports that the claim was being made the lynching took place in Alabama instead of Florida, the Chief Executive said these reports should also be thoroughly investigated, and if found to be true, those engaged in the lynching should be indicted.

Statements of witnesses filed with the Governor, accompanied a communication from Solicitor Caffey, amplifying a brief report he had forwarded several days before in response to the Governor's request that he investigate removal of Neal from the jail by the mob; determine whether the laws of Alabama had been violated by the sheriff of the county, his deputies, or any other person in connection with the occurrence; and if they had, recommended that the Grand Jury be called on to act in the matter. The same request was made of Judge Hare, who also filed a brief report.

Following is the text of Gov. Miller's letter forwarded yesterday to Judge Hare and Solicitor Caffey, directing that a special Grand Jury session be convened:

"Judge F. W. Hare,
"Monroeville, Ala.
"Hon. H. M. Caffey, Jr.,
"Circuit Solicitor,
"Brewton, Ala.
"Gentlemen:

"The letter of Judge Hare of Oct. 31 and of Mr. Caffey of Oct. 30 were duly received.

"I have received this morning the letter of Caffey supplementing his letter of Oct. 30 and making report with copy of statements on the placing of Claude Neal in jail in Brewton and on his being taken from the jail by a mob.

"It seems to me from these statements that it is absolutely necessary that a Grand Jury be convened in Escambia County to investigate this matter. I think that every witness whose statements Mr. Caffey sent to me should be before the Grand Jury and that in addition every person who knows any facts connected with the placing of this prisoner in jail in Brewton and his removal therefrom by a mob, should be summoned before the Grand Jury and examined thoroughly.

"I have seen statements in the newspapers to the effect that some claim has been made that the lynching occurred in Alabama and not in Florida. This matter should be thoroughly investigated and if found that the lynching was in Alabama, those engaged therein should be indicted.

"I note from your letters that both of you will be engaged in court in Evergreen from Monday, Nov. 5 to Saturday, Nov. 17. I think that this time will be valuable in securing additional testimony and that your Grand Jury should be convened in Brewton on Monday, Nov. 19, to remain in session as long as may be necessary to properly and thoroughly investigate this entire matter.

"Yours truly,
"B. M. MILLER,
"Governor."

The negro, Neal, who was charged with criminally assaulting a white woman, was placed in the jail at Brewton by Florida officers for safekeeping and the mob that later took the prisoner into custody and spirited him away, was presumably composed of Floridians. Following the lynching, Neal's body was strung up in the courthouse yard at Marianna, Fla., where it remained until it was cut down by authorities early the next morning.

LYNCH PROTEST SENT TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Constitution 11-1-34

Guards Could Not Have Prevented Violence, Sholtz Is Told.

Atlanta, Ga.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Oct. 31.—(AP)—The state cabinet was told by Lieutenant Colonel Percy Coombs, of the Florida national guard, today that in his opinion the militia could not have prevented the lynching of Claude Neal, negro, near Marianna, last week.

Meanwhile, to President Roosevelt in Washington came a letter asserting the mob which forcibly took Neal from a Brewton, Ala., jail and brought him to Florida to kill him had violated the federal kidnap law. The letter was signed by Walter Pickens, of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

After listening to Coombs, Governor Dave Sholtz awaited the personal report tomorrow of Sheriff W. F.

Chambliss, of Jackson county. The governor said he had received the assurance of Chambliss that county authorities could handle the situation and national guardsmen were not needed.

Coombs was in charge of two militia companies moved into Marianna Saturday, after Neal was lynched Friday night, when civil authorities reported they feared further mob violence.

Coombs told the cabinet he doubted if troops could have found the mob, as it held the negro all day Friday awaiting nightfall, when residents of the area had been invited to "attend the party."

"Even if the mob had been located," the officer said, "it probably would have killed the negro before he could be rescued."

LYNCHING PROTEST RISING IN FLORIDA

Times

Troops on Guard in Marianna as Group Holds Authorities Were Entirely at Fault.

10-29-34

TO BRING UP WAGNER BILL

Senator, With Colleague, Plans to Re-Introduce Measure in the Coming Congress.

MARIANNA, Fla., Oct. 28 (AP).—Sunday quiet prevailed here today as National Guardsmen remained on duty following several days of mob hysteria during which one Negro was lynched. Another Negro was threatened with violence and a white man who killed a deputy sheriff was moved from one jail to another for his own protection.

There were no further demonstrations and officials said they looked for none. State troops, rushed here at Governor Dave Sholtz's orders, had nothing to do but stand guard at the jail and court house.

Official inquiries were under way into the lynching of Claude Neal near Greenwood Friday night.

Buford Mears, who shot and fatally wounded Deputy Sheriff Dave Hamm of Marianna early this morning, was brought back here.

Lieut. Col. J. T. Coombs, commanding the guardsmen here, said he did not know how long the trooops would remain on duty. He said Adjt. Gen. Vivien Collins had ordered him to use his own judgment. He indicated that the guards would not be withdrawn until tomorrow at the earliest and that a smaller force might remain longer.

Grand Jury Inquiry Expected.

While Jackson County officers said they were carrying out Governor Sholt's instructions to make a thorough investigation of the mob action and report without delay, criticism of State and county authorities echoed from all parts of the country.

Organizations seeking better relations between the white and Negro races poured a stream of protests into Washington and Tallahassee, demanding that the Federal Government take a hand because the mob had seized the Negro in Alabama and lynched him in Florida. For the most part, these complaints asserted Florida and Alabama authorities had ample notice that the lynching was to be held. They declared that these authorities could have halted it if they had tried.

Grand jury investigation of the lynching was expected here, but so far the jury has not been called into session.

Reports that the mob last night burned Negro houses in Jackson County proved erroneous. Some white families gave their Negro servants shelter in their own homes over the week-end.

To Re-introduce Lynching Bill.

Telegrams from Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York and Edward P. Costigan of Colorado, announcing that they would re-introduce an anti-lynching bill in the next session of Congress, were made public yesterday by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Senator Wagner, in a telegram from Buffalo, said:

"The imperative need for a Federal anti-lynching bill becomes more apparent daily. It is my determination to re-introduce immediately upon the convening of Congress in January the anti-lynching bill which Senator Costigan and I endeavored to get through the Congress last session, and I confidently expect its enactment at this coming session."

Bill is Held Inevitable.

Senator Costigan's message said:

"Deep distress is being generally expressed by American citizens over recent revival of lynch law barbarities in this country.

"It is once more shown that nothing short of national legislation can properly deal with these acts of recurring lawlessness. The present ability of peace officers when spurred to vigilance to promote or prevent lynchings is clear as day. While the Federal Bill against lynching was pending in the last session of Congress months passed without a single lynching in the United States, but with the adjournment of Congress without action on the measure such attacks on law and order were promptly renewed at the rate of more than one lynching a week.

"It is therefore inevitable that the Anti-Lynching Bill which was endorsed by representatives of some forty million Americans and was favorably reported to the Senate at the last session of Congress be again introduced and vigorously pressed for prompt enactment into law."

A movement was under way last night to persuade all churches in Harlem to protest to President Roosevelt and to Florida authorities. Fifteen churches were expected to send telegrams.

Sheriff Absolved Of Lynch Blame

11-2-34

He Believes Negro Killing Occurred 'In Alabama'; Grand Jury Sift Ordered

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., Nov. 1.—(AP)—Gov. Dave Sholtz today absolved Sheriff W. F. Chambliss of blame in the lynching of Claude Neal, negro, near Marianna last week, but ordered a grand jury investigation of the affair.

Reports reaching here, the Governor said, indicated "some of the ringleaders" of the mob that lynched Neal "are supposed to be known."

Sheriff Chambliss came here to make a personal report of his activities to the Governor. As he left, he said he had heard rumors that further mob violence might develop at Marianna Saturday.

"I'm going to swear in plenty of deputies," he said, "and I assure you we will handle the situation. The first man who indicates he is getting ready to cause trouble will be locked up."

Declaring he was unable to learn where the lynching actually took place, Chambliss added "it's my belief he was killed in Alabama."

Neal, said by officers to have confessed attacking and killing a white woman, was taken from the Brewton, Ala., jail early last Friday morning by a band of men who said they intended to lynch him at the scene of the crime.

Thousands of persons gathered near Greenwood, Fla., that night as reports of the mob's plan were spread. Their night long vigil was not rewarded, however, for early Saturday morning the body of the negro was dragged to the home of the dead girl's parents. Later it was taken to Marianna and hung from a tree near Courthouse Square.

Chambliss told the Governor today he had not requested assistance from the National Guard in his effort to halt the lynching because he believed he and his deputies could handle the situation "all right."

Troops were rushed to the scene the next day, however, when a band of men attempted to take from officers a negro arrested after he had an altercation with a white man.

"I did everything I could to prevent the lynching," Chambliss said. "We transferred the negro from Marianna to Chipley, and then to Panama City and then to Pensacola, and the Sheriff at Pensacola later moved him to Brewton. I didn't know the negro was in the Alabama jail.

The Sheriff, describing his efforts to find the negro, said he tried to surround Jackson county with deputies, but we never did see the mob."

"What disturbs me," Gov. Sholtz declared, "are reports that notice of its intention was given by the mob when it took the negro from the Alabama jail."

As Chambliss concluded his report, the Governor said:

"It looked from first reports that you had not exerted every effort to protect the prisoner, but I am convinced from your report that you did all you possibly could. Although this office was not notified of the transfer of the prisoner from jail to jail, I cannot censure you for using your best judgment in the effort to protect him from the mob."

Turning to State's Atty. John H. Carter, Jr., who accompanied Chambliss here, Gov. Sholtz said:

"We don't condone lynching in Florida. I want you and the Grand Jury to make a vigorous and thorough effort to run down the ring leaders of this mob and prosecute them.

"It has been reported here that some of the ringleaders are supposed to be known." The Governor did not announce the source of this information.

Carter said the Jackson County Grand Jury would meet Monday and would be presented with the case.

FLORIDA TOWN QUIET FOLLOWING LYNCHING

Constitution

10-29-34

Guardsmen Keep Peace in Marianna; Grand Jury Expected To Act.

Atlanta, Ga.

MARIANNA, Fla., Oct. 28.—(AP)—Sunday quiet prevailed here today as national guardsmen remained on duty following a week-end of mob hysteria during which one negro was lynched, another was threatened with violence and a white man who killed a deputy sheriff was moved from jail to jail to prevent summary action against him.

There were no further demonstrations and officials said they looked for none. State troops, rushed here at Governor Dave Sholtz's orders when the first lynching was followed by an attempt to take a second negro from jail, had nothing to do except stand guard at the jail and courthouse.

Official inquiries were under way into the lynching of Claude Neal, negro, near Greenwood, Friday night.

Lieutenant Colonel J. T. Coombs, commanding the guardsmen here, said he did not know how long the troops would remain on duty, adding Adjutant General Vivien Collins had ordered him to use his own judgment. Coombs indicated the guards would not be withdrawn until tomorrow at the earliest and that a smaller force might remain longer.

Grand jury investigation of the lynching was expected here but so far the jury had not been called into session. Circuit court will be in session tomorrow. State Attorney John H. Carter Jr. said the whole matter would be investigated on the governor's orders.

SENATORS WILL RENEW ANTI-LYNCHING FIGHT

NEW YORK, Oct. 28.—(AP)—Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, announced today receipt of telegrams from Senators Robert F. Wagner, of New York, and Edward P. Costigan, of Colorado, in which they said they would press for passage of anti-lynch legislation at the next session of congress.

Senator Wagner, wiring from Buffalo, said: "It is my determination to reintroduce immediately upon the convening of congress in January the anti-lynching bill which Senator Costigan and I endeavored to get through congress last year, and I confidently expect its enactment at the coming session."

Senator Costigan, wiring from Washington, said the bill would be "vigorously pressed for prompt enactment" and added that "deep distress is being generally expressed by American citizens over the recent revival of lynch law barbarities in this country."

Court Delays Seen Reason For Lynching

Post

Editor, The Post:

Many of us have severely criticized the exasperated people of Western Florida for illegally executing a negro. One paper goes so far as to say they are illiterate, when, if the truth were known, I expect you will find them certainly up to, if not above the average of our native white stock the country over.

For every condition there is a cause, if you but seek for it. And in this instance I do not think you will have to seek far, namely the conditions which have been permitted to develop in our court procedure, whereby interminable delays are the rule.

These delays in our court procedure must be corrected, or you will see a wave of lynchings over the country such as you never have seen before. What the remedy is, a mere business man cannot say, but he thinks that if more business men, of executive ability, were elected to make our laws and charged with the execution of them, a remedy would be found.

A. O. WRIGHTER.

Two Florida Sheriffs To Testify At Brewton

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., Nov. 6.—(AP)—Two Florida sheriffs will appear as witnesses before the Escambia County, Alabama, grand jury, when it begins an investigation on Nov. 19 into the removal of Claude Neal, negro, from the Brewton, Ala., jail by a mob.

Gov. Miller, of Alabama, today asked Gov. Dave Sholtz, of Florida, to have Sheriff H. E. Gandy, of Escambia County, Florida, and Sheriff W. F. Chambliss, of Jackson County, Florida, appear before the Alabama grand jury. Gov. Sholtz said he would instruct the two sheriffs to attend the investigation.

There have been rumors the negro was lynched in Alabama and not in Florida as first reported, and the governors of the two States have instructed grand juries to investigate these reports.

Lynchings—1934

General

4622

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

TRIBUNE
OCEANSIDE, CALIF.

MAR 22 1934

PUNISHMENT FOR LYNCHING

Thirty-six states have laws against lynching, but only nine make it specifically a crime, according to a compilation made by the American Legislators' association in the March issue of State Government.

The laws are of three types: (1) to punish members of a lynching mob or sheriffs who permit a person to be lynched; (2) to make cities or counties liable for reparation in money for damages suffered at the hands of a mob; (3) to order a special term of court to try the prisoner promptly, thereby removing the excuse that the regular process of law is too slow.

Arkansas is the only state that has the preventive measure of the third type. In 20 states prisoners may be sent to another county if there is danger of mob violence.

The punishment usually provided where lynching is a 'crime' is life imprisonment or death. Three of the states impose a lesser penalty in prison sentences. Kansas, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia make it as much a crime to be party to a lynching as to perform the act.

Statutes imposing liabilities on cities or counties for permitting mob violence are more common. The maximum amounts which the local governments may be compelled to pay range from $5,000 in Illinois, New Jersey, Ohio and West Virginia, to $10,000 in Pennsylvania. Three states do not prescribe a maximum amount. In South Carolina, the smallest damage which may be awarded is $2,000.

Nine states have statutes which require the removal of sheriffs who permit their prisoners to be lynched. The officers may be reinstated if they can show that every reasonable precaution was taken to prevent the lynching.

State Government considers the following three provisions necessary in a model lynching law: (1) removal of the offending sheriff and peace officer by the governor, and making them civilly liable to the victim or his estate for damages; (2) substituting information for indictment and allowing trustworthy hearsay evidence; (3) providing for effective military interference upon order of the governor, without request by local authorities.

Lynchings - 1934
6
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.
6

Kentucky.

4623

LYNCHING SUSPECTS RELEASED IN KENTUCKY

Constitution

HAZARD, Ky., Jan. 26.—(AP)—The men taken in custody yesterday in connection with the lynching of Alex Scott, negro, have been released, County Judge A. M. Gross said here today.

1-27-34

Three of the men, Petie Carroll, Lee Gibson and Andy Workman, were charged in warrants with murder, and the fourth man, James Collins, had been held simply on Judge Gross' orders. Judge Gross said today the warrants against the trio had not been dismissed, but that they had simply been allowed to return to their homes, in a near-by coal mining camp.

"They won't leave the county," he said in response to a question, and added that the grand jury called in special session would take up the formal inquiry Monday. "We are continuing our investigation and have some evidence that we can't disclose now," Judge Gross added. He said no further arrests had been made in the case.

LOUISVILLE, KY.
COURIER JOURNAL

7 INDICTED IN SCOTT LYNCHING

Alleged Members of Mob In Hazard Raid Have Special Guard.

Hazard, Ky., Feb. 7 (AP)—A seven-day session of the grand jury, involving the appearance of 200 witnesses resulted today in the indictment of seven men on charges of participating in the lynching of Rex Scott, Negro who was dragged from jail by a mob and hanged on the night of January 24.

The seven indicted, and for whose arrest warrants were issued immediately, were Petie Carroll, Lee Gibson, Ed Bentley, Bill "Wooden" Kinser, Ordley Fugate, George Watkins and John Watts.

Lee Gibson was the first man placed under arrest. All were in jail by 4 o'clock this afternoon.

The men were arrested on warrants charging murder, which were based on indictments which said they were "charged with the crime of engaging in a mob resulting in the death of Rex Scott."

Scott, who had been held in the Perry County jail on a charge of beating Alexander Johnson, a miner, was taken from the jail by about 150 men, carried fifteen miles south of Hazard into Knott County, and hanged, after which a score or more bullets were fired into his body.

Johnson died of his injuries shortly after Scott was lynched.

A special guard was placed on duty at the Perry County Jail tonight where the seven men charged with taking part in the lynching are being held. None of the defendants has made application for bond.

The regular term of Circuit Court convenes Monday.

Called State Function.

Frankfort, Ky., Feb. 7 (AP)—The House of Representatives adopted a resolution today requesting Congress to leave to the States the question of enacting legislation to prevent and punish lynching.

W. B. Belknap, Democrat, Goshen, who offered the resolution, stated there are now before Congress at Washington about six bills "to make punishment of lynching a duty of the Federal Government." The resolution stated "much pressure" is being brought on Congress "to pass a bill putting upon the county where a lynching occurs heavy damages to be paid to the family of anyone lynched."

Belknap introduced two bills to control and punish lynching in Kentucky.

New York Times
FEB 8 1934

7 INDICTED IN LYNCHING.

Grand Jury Acts at Hazard, Ky., After Hearing 200 Witnesses.

HAZARD, Ky., Feb. 7 (AP).—An indictment charging seven men with participating in the lynching Jan. 24 of Rex Scott, a Negro, was returned today by a special grand jury.

Petie Carroll, Lee Gibson, Ed Bentley, Bill (Wooden) Kinser, Ordley Fugate, George Watkins and John Watts were named. Warrants were immediately placed in the hands of the Sheriff.

Scott was being held in the Perry County jail charged with slugging Alexander Johnson, a miner, when he was taken by a mob of 130 men, carried fifteen miles south of here and hanged. A score or more bullets were fired into his body. Johnson died shortly after the lynching.

The grand jury, in session seven days, examined more than 200 wit-

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LOUISVILLE, KY.
COURIER JOURNAL
FEB 4 1934

PROBE OF LYNCHING TO BE CONTINUED

Hazard, Ky., Feb. 3 (AP)—An order was entered by Judge Sam M. Ward today directing the special Perry County grand jury investigating the lynching of Rex Scott to continue its sessions through Wednesday.

Since convening Monday morning the jury has examined 158 witnesses and fifteen are summoned to appear Monday. Neither the Commonwealth's Attorney nor any member of the jury would comment this afternoon, except to say that developments thus far justify further investigation.

Scott was removed from the Perry County jail on the night of January 24, taken fifteen miles south of Hazard in Knott County, and hanged.

N. Y. SUN
FEB 7 1934

INDICTED AS LYNCHERS

Seven Kentucky Men Are Named by Grand Jury.

HAZARD, Ky., Feb. 7 (A. P.).—An indictment charging seven men with participating in the lynching of Rex Scott on the night of January 24 was returned today by the Special Grand Jury investigating the case.

Named in the indictment were Petie Carroll, Lee Gibson, Ed Bentley, Bill (Wooden) Kinser, Ordley Fugate, Gcoorge Watkins and John Watts. Warrants for their arrest were immediately placed in the hands of the sheriff.

Scott, a Negro, who was being held in the Perry county jail charged with slugging Alexander Johnson, a miner, was taken from the jail by a mob of 130 men, carried fifteen miles south of Hazard and hanged. A score or more bullets were fired into his body. Johnson died shortly after the lynching

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LOUISVILLE, KY.
TIMES
FEB 8 1934

'RAH FOR HAZARD!

Indictment of seven men for alleged participation in the lynching of REX SCOTT, Negro, puts Hazard in the spotlight most favorably, and causes really civilized human beings to commend the grand jurors, and the community sentiment which, it is reasonable to believe, they reflect.

In many lynching cases local sentiment is so favorable to the murderers that efforts to procure indictments are foredoomed to failure.

Assuming—and the assumption is reasonable—that the grand jurors in Perry County constitute a cross-section of citizenship, the section is reflected, in widespread publicity, as being more than a little ahead of many lowland Kentucky communities in sentiment for justice.

Lynching is, usually, a crime in which the community is an accessory after the fact, morally. Community approval, or community complacency would have made impossible what has occurred in Hazard.

LOUISVILLE, KY.
TIMES
FEB 7 1934

SEVEN INDICTED IN SCOTT'S LYNCHING

Special Grand Jury Returns True Bill In Hanging of Negro In State.

WARRANTS ARE ISSUED

More Than 200 Witnesses Examined During Seven-Day Investigation.

Hazard, Ky., Feb. 7 (AP)—An indictment charging seven men with participating in the lynching of Rex Scott, Negro, on the night of January 24 was returned today by the special Grand Jury investigating the case.

Named in the indictment were Petie Carroll, Lee Gibson, Ed Bentley, Bill "Wooden" Kinser, Ordley Fugate, George Watkins and John Watts.

Warrants for their arrest were immediately placed in the hands of the Sheriff.

Scott, who was being held in the Perry County Jail charged with slugging Alexander Johnson, a miner, was taken from the jail by a mob of 150 men, carried fifteen miles south of Hazard into Knott County and hanged. A score or more bullets were fired into his body. Johnson died shortly after the lynching.

A special Grand Jury investigating the lynching had been in session seven days when the indictment was returned. During that time the Grand Jury had examined more than 200 witnesses.

The grand jury was discharged shortly after the indictments were returned against the men, all coal miners.

Lee Gibson was the first man arrested and brought to jail on the indictment.

Control of Lynching Urged As State Function.

Frankfort, Ky., Feb. 7 (AP)—The House of Representatives adopted a resolution today requesting Congress to leave to the States the question of enacting legislation to prevent and punish lynching.

W. B. Belknap, Democrat, Goshen, who offered the resolution, stated there are now before Congress at Washington about six bills "to make punishment of lynching a duty of the Federal Government." The resolution stated "much pressure" is being brought on Congress "to pass a bill putting upon the county where a lynching occurs heavy damages to be paid to the family of anyone lynched."

Belknap introduced two bills to control and punish lynching in Kentucky.

One measure would provide for recovery in a civil action against the Commonwealth damages of $2,000 for a death resulting from injuries inflicted in a lynching or attempted lynching. After costs of the funeral and administration are paid the money would go to relatives of the lynched person. The damages would be paid out of the general fund.

The other bill would confer on the Court of Appeals power to select a grand jury to investigate lynchings and attempted lynchings. The court would be authorized to designate one of its members as trial judge. The Attorney General would be authorized to take charge of the prosecution.

LOUISVILLE, KY.
HERALD POST
FEB 7 1934

LYNCHING BILLS OFFERED.

Frankfort, Ky., Feb. 7—Bills to provide state prosecution in lynchings and to award damages to families of victims, were introduced in the House today by Representative William B. Belknap, Goshen, after the House approved a resolution requesting Congress to leave control of the crime with state government.

LOUISVILLE, KY.
HERALD POST
FEB 7 1934

MINERS INDICTED IN MOB KILLING

Seven Are Accused of Lynching Negro.

Hazard, Ky., Feb. 7 (INS)—Seven miners were indicted today by a special grand jury in the lynching of Rex Scott, Negro.

Scott was taken from Perry County jail here by a mob the night of Jauuary 24 and hanged. The Negro was accused of fatally beating Alex Johnson, a white miner.

The seven indicted are Lee Gibson, John Watts, Bill Kinser, Pete Carroll, Ordley Fugate, George Watkins and Ed Bentley.

LOUISVILLE, KY.
HERALD POST
FEB 12 1934

LYNCHING SUSPECTS LIBERATED ON BOND

10

Hazard, Ky., Feb. 12 (INS)—Seven men indicted in the lynching of Rex Scott, Negro, were free today on bond. Dates for trials have not been set.

Lee Gibson, George Watkins, Ed Bentley, Pete Carroll and Bill Kinser were released on $7,500 bond each, and John Watts and Audrey Fugate on $5,000 bail each.

HERIFF IS REMOVED AS LYNCHING RESULT

FRANKFORT, Ky., Feb. 27.—(AP)—Removal of Troy P. Combs as jailer of Perry county came today as a sequel to the lynching of Rex Scott, a negro prisoner, near Hazard, in southeastern Kentucky, last January 24.

In an executive order today Governor Ruby Laffoon declared the office of jailer in Perry county vacant.

NEWS
Lawrenceburg Ky.
FEB 15 1934

BONDS ARE GRANTED SEVEN IN HAZARD LYNCHING CASE

HAZARD, Ky.—Bonds was granted to the seven men indicted in connection with the lynching January 24, of Alex Scott, a negro, after a lengthy hearing before Circuit Judge Sam M. Ward, Tuesday. The defendants introduced about 40 witnesses, but the commonwealth presented no evidence. Ordley Fugate and John Watts were granted bond of $5,000 each and the other five, George Watkins, Lee Gibson, Ed Bentley, Petie Carroll and William Kinser, were granted $7,500 bond each. All made the bonds.

NEW YORK
WORLD
Telegram
FEB 28 1934

OUSTS JAILER IN LYNCHING

Laffoon Says Removal of Prisoner Is Evidence of Negligence.

By the Associated Press.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Feb. 28.—Removal of Troy P. Combs as jailer of Perry County came today as a sequel to the lynching of Rex Scott, a Negro prisoner, near Hazard, last January 24.

In an executive order Governor Ruby Laffoon declared the office vacant. Governor Laffoon said the taking of Scott from the jail was prima facie evidence of negligence on the part of the jailer.

NEW YORK AMERICAN
FEB 28 1934

LYNCH JAILER OUSTED

FRANKFORT, Ky., Feb. 27 (AP).—Gov. Laffoon today removed Troy P. Combs as jailor of Perry County on the ground affidavits filed with him tended to establish alleged failure of the officer to protect a Negro prisoner taken from the jail and lynched by a mob January 24.

THROWN OUT BY GOVERNOR AFTER QUIZ

N. A. A. C. P. Helps in Investigation

Defender

3-30-34

HAZARD, Ky., March 9.—Spurred to renewed activity by the arrival of Charles W. Anderson Jr., Race attorney sent here by the Louisville branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the state's attorney has gathered considerable evidence pointing to the lynchers of Rex Scott, miner, near here on Jan. 24.

Law officers have also discovered in the mountains near by the automobile in which the mob carried Scott to his death.

Ousted by Governor

Governor Ruby Laffoon on Feb. 28 issued an executive order removing Troy P. Combs, Perry county jailer, for negligence in permitting the mob to remove Scott from the jail at Hazard.

Attorney Anderson of Louisville is staying here for the trial of the accused lynchers and will aid in their prosecution.

Defended Self

The lynching of Scott was described here as the most brutal crime committed in Kentucky for many years. Scott was standing on the street talking to a boy friend when a drunken white man approached him and without provocation drew a knife to attack him.

Scott attempted to escape but the stranger seized his coat and held him. Uttering oaths the white man attempted to strike Scott with the knife, but was overpowered in the scuffle and subsequently killed. Scott gave himself up.

Mutilate Body

He was placed in jail. On the same night, about 300 miners, friends of the slain man, came to the jail and were welcomed inside by Combs, the jailer, who led them to Scott's cell. He was taken several miles out of town and lynched. His eyes were gouged out and his fingers and toes were cut off and distributed as souvenirs among the lynchers. The following day a guard had to be placed around Scott's home to prevent the mob from again seizing the body and burning it before burial ceremonies were performed.

St. Petersburg, Fla. Independent
March 1. 1934

In Frankfort, Kentucky, a jailer who allowed a mob to take and lynch a negro prisoner has been fired. That is not much, but more than Tampa did with its lynching. The Tampa papers, by the way, do not like the idea of calling it a lynching. It looked more like a gang murder to them. Their desire to avoid the stigma of the word lynching is natural, but the facts hardly justify the fine distinction. A mob snatched from a man posing as an officer a negro who had been arrested in connection with a case of criminal assault, transported him to the woods in the dead of night and shot him full of holes. It looked curiously like a lynching.

MORE TIME ASKED BY STATE IN ORGY QUIZ

Courier

HAZARD, Ky., Mar. 22—Judges Samuel Ward on Monday granted the motion of the Commonwealth's attorney for continuance of the trial of six coal miners (white) charged with lynching Rex Scott, until May 16.

The commonwealth's attorney and Charles W. Anderson, Jr., representing the Louisville Branch of the N. A. A. C. P., arguing the motion for a continuance stated that in the interest of justice and for the preparation of the cases to allow more time for a more thorough and complete investigation was absolutely necessary under the circumstances wherein so many parties had been connected with the brutal affair.

3-24-34

Attorneys for the defendants argued for a speedy trial as a constitutional right. Judge Ward admitted that the right for a speedy trial was due everyone under the constitution, but since the defendants were let out under bond their freedom was not abridged. After the hearing of the motion for a continuance, the court dismissed the indictment against Orell Fugate on motion of the commonwealth's attorney. Fugate, a partially blind defendant, had been held due to tags on one of the cars in the mob being in his name. Evidence discovered during the investigation was that Fugate had sold his car seven months before the lynching to a junk dealer and shortly afterward obtained a new car. That the tags had been stolen from the junk yard and used by some members of the mob, which came from eastern part of Perry County.

A large Studebaker car, which was discovered last week, is being held by the authorities. Rugs and boards of the car which had blood on them have been sent to the University of Kentucky laboratory at Lexington.

Lynchings - 1934

Kentucky

4624

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

FOUR IN JAIL FOR LYNCHING IN KENTUCKY

Telegraph

More Arrests Predicted as Perry County Officers Push Investigation

1-26-34

REPRISAL THREATS HEARD

Appeals For Punishment of Mob Members Pour in to Governor Laffoon

Macon, Ga

HAZARD, Ky., Jan. 25 (AP)—Four men were held and more arrests were predicted by Perry county officials late today as they pressed their investigation of the lynching of a Negro slayer of a coal miner last night.

Murder warrants were sworn out today against three miners, Lee Gibson, 37; Andy Workman, 30, and Petie Carroll, 38, and another man, James Collins, 32, was held on orders of County Judge A. M. Gross. A special grand jury was ordered by Circuit Judge Sam Ward to convene Monday.

"We have some good information, but can't talk about it yet," was all that Judge Gross would say, further than that he and all county officers were continuing the investigation. He added there would be no formal inquiry until the grand jury met.

There are some 800 Negroes in Hazard, a town of around 7,000 population in the center of a coal mining district, and threats of retaliation for the lynching were heard, but commenting upon them, Judge Gross said, "Those threats came to nothing and there'll be no trouble."

Appeals Made to Governor

Meanwhile telegrams poured in upon Governor Ruby Laffoon at Frankfort deploring the first 1934 lynching and urging him and all state and county officers involved to aid in convicting the members of the mob of 150 to 250 masked men. The Negro, Alex Scott, 20, an ex-convict was forcibly taken from jail here last night, hanged in a mountain graveyard in adjoining Knott county and a score or more of bullets fired into his body.

Alex Johnson, 21, a coal miner, whom Scott was alleged to have beaten with a stick here last Saturday night, died shortly after the lynching. Men questioned by officers included a number who Troy P. Combs, county jailer, said came to the jail Wednesday and asked him the name of the Negro.

All four men held today were said by county officers to have worked in the same coal camp as did Johnson, who left a widow and a four-year-old daughter.

Mrs. Atwood R. Martin of Louisville, chairman of the Kentucky division of the Association of Southern Women for the Preventing of Lynching, telegraphed the governor urging him to take an opposite stand from that of Governor Rolph of California, who promised pardons after a lynching in that state.

KENTUCKY HOLDS FOUR IN LYNCHING

Constitution

1-26-34

HAZARD, Ky., Jan. 25.—(AP)—Three men were arrested on murder warrants and another held for questioning here today as Perry county officials pressed their investigation of the lynching of Alex Scott, a negro.

The charges followed an all-night questioning of the four men and others which began shortly after the 20-year-old negro slayer had been forcibly taken from jail here by a masked mob. Approximately 100 shots were fired as the mob of 150 to 250 men left town and hurried to a graveyard in near-by Knott county, where Scott was hanged to a beech tree and more than a score of shots fired into his body.

The men arrested on murder warrants were Petie Carroll, 38; Lee Gibson, 37, and Andy Workman, 30, and the man held on orders of County Judge A. M. Gross was James Collins, 32. All came from the Harlowe Coal Company camp at Scuddy, near here. Alex Johnson, whom Scott, an ex-convict, was alleged to have fatally beaten, was employed in the same coal camp. Johnson died last night shortly after the lynching.

All four men denied they participated in the lynching, although Troy P. Combs, jailer, said he recognized some of them as well as some of the others questioned as among a group that came to the jail Wednesday and inquired the name of the negro charged with beating Johnson. The jailer said members of the group urged that Scott be kept in a cell, saying they feared Johnson would die and they were interested in Scott's prosecution.

Circuit Judge Sam Ward called a special grand jury to convene Monday to inquire into the lynching and Jailer Combs telegraphed Governor Ruby Laffoon last night shortly after the mob took Scott. Kentucky law requires that the governor remove a jailer surrendering a prisoner to a mob and then grant him a hearing to determine whether he should be reinstated.

Constitution

1-26-34

Jailer Combs said 30 or 40 leaders of the mob threatened him with death when they came to the jail last night and roughly handled him until he convinced them he did not have the cell keys. W. C. Knuckles, deputy jailer, was cornered in a jail corridor and the keys, found on him, were taken. Scott was dragged out and the mob fled town with him in automobiles.

Sheriff Fillmore McIntosh organized a pose of deputies, policemen and citizens and followed, finding the negro's body shortly after he had been hanged and shot.

FOUR MEN JAILED IN NEGRO LYNCHING

Advertiser

Coal Miner, Suspect in Killing, Is Hanged In Cemetery; Investigation Starts

1-26-34

HAZARD, KY., Jan. 25—(AP)—Four men were held and more arrests were predicted by Perry County officials late today as they pressed their investigation of the lynching of a negro slayer of a coal miner last night.

Montgomery

Ala

Murder warrants were sworn out today against three miners, Lee Gibson, 37; Andy Workman, 30, and Petie Carroll, 38, and another man, James Collins 32, was held on orders of County Judge A. M. Gross. A special Grand Jury was ordered by Circuit Judge Sam Ward to convene Monday.

"We have some good information, but can't talk about it yet," was all that Judge Gross would say, further than that he and all county officers were continuing the investigation. He added there would be no formal inquiry until the Grand Jury met.

There are some 800 negroes in Hazard a town of around 7,000 population in the center of a coal mining district, and threats of retaliation for the lynching were heard, but commenting upon them, Judge Gross said, "Those threats came to nothing and there'll be no trouble."

Meanwhile telegrams poured in upon Gov. Ruby Laffoon at Frankfort deploring the first 1934 lynching and urging him and all State and county officers involved to aid in convicting the members of the mob of 150 to 250 masked men. The Governor through his Secretary, H. H. Holeman, tonight gave out a promise to "do everything within my power" to bring the lynchers to justice. The negro, Alex Scott, 20, an ex-convict was forcibly taken from jail here last night, hanged in a mountain graveyard in adjoining Knott County and a score or more of bullets fired into his body.

Alex Johnson, 21, a coal miner, whom Scott was alleged to have beaten with a stick here last Saturday night, died shortly after the lynching. Men questioned by officers included a number who, Troy P. Combs, county jailer, said came to the jail Wednesday and asked him the name of the negro.

All four men held today were said by county officers to have worked in the same coal camp as did Johnson, who left a widow and a four-year-old daughter.

Mrs. Atwood R. Martin, of Louisville, chairman of the Kentucky division of the Association of Southern Women for the Preventing of Lynching, telegraphed the Governor urging him to take an opposite stand from that of Gov. Rolph, of California, who promised pardons after a lynching in that State.

The Kentucky House of Representatives unanimously adopted a resolution by Representative W. B. Belknap, Democrat, of Goshen, declaring "the terrible crime of lynching tends to spread when not punished." Expressing confidence that the Governor desired to prevent mob violence and offering its support in any such action he might take.

Other organizations which wired the Governor deploring the lynching and urging punishment for the mob included the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky, the Women's Missionary Society of Louisville and the Interracial Commission of Kentucky.

Gov. Laffoon conferred with Atty. Gen. Bailey P. Wootton, whose home is in Hazard. Under Kentucky law the Governor upon complaint that a jailer has surrendered a prisoner must remove him from office and then grant a hearing to show whether he should be reinstated

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FOUR JAILED AFTER NEGRO IS LYNCHED

Commercial Appeal

More Arrests Predicted By Kentucky Officers

1-26-34

HAZARD, Ky., Jan. 25.—(AP)—Four men were held and more arrests were predicted by Perry County officials late today as they pressed their investigation of the lynching of a negro slayer of a coal miner last night.

Memphis

Murder warrants were sworn out today against three miners, Lee Gibson, 37; Andy Workman, 30, and Petie Carroll, 38, and another man, James Collins, 32, was held on orders of County Judge A. M. Gross. A special grand jury was ordered by Circuit Judge Sam Ward to convene Monday.

No Retaliation Threats

There are some 800 negroes in Hazard, a town of around 7,000 population in the center of a coal mining district, and threats of retaliation for the lynching were heard, but commenting upon them, Judge Gross said that "those threats threats came to nothing and there'll be no trouble."

Meanwhile telegrams poured in upon Governor Laffoon at Frankfort deploring the first 1934 lynching and urging him and all state and county officers involved to aid in convicting the members of the mob of 150 to 250 masked men.

The negro, Alex Scott, 20, an ex-convict, was forcibly taken from jail here last night, hanged in a mountain graveyard in adjoining Knott County and a score or more of bullets fired into his body.

Alex Johnson, 21, a coal miner, whom Scott was alleged to have beaten with a stick here last Saturday night, died shortly after the lynching. Men questioned by officers included a number who Troy P. Combs, county jailer, said came to the jail Wednesday and asked him the name of the negro.

All four men held today were said by county officers to have worked in the same coal camp as did Johnson, who left a widow and a four-year-old daughter.

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KENTUCKY HOUSE BACKS MOVE TO HALT LYNCHING

FRANKFORT, Ky., Jan. 25.—(AP) A resolution pledging support of Governor Ruby Laffoon in "any steps he may take" to prevent lynchings was unanimously adopted today by the Kentucky house of representatives.

The resolution referred to the lynching last night near Hazard of Alex Scott, 20-year-old negro, held in jail for fatally beating Alex Johnson, a coal miner.

1-26-34

Four men were held this morning in connection with the mob attack and the governor said he contemplated no immediate steps. He said he had not been advised of the lynching except by what he had read in the newspapers.

W. B. Belknap, democrat, of Goshen, author of the lynching resolution, in offering it said, "the morning record that a horrible lynching occurred in Kentucky yesterday. Lynching has gotten a fresh start in the United States and this first lynching in 1934 coming in Kentucky will put Kentucky in a very unpleasant and wrong position.

"We have laws that guarantee to every citizen a fair trial," said Belknap. "All this resolution does is to back up the governor in any steps he may take.

"We know that the governor will do the right thing. We have confidence in him. We know he is the proper person to act in this matter."

LYNCH PROBER IS SHOT BY KENTUCKY BANDITS

3-22-34

PRINCETON, Ky., March [illegible] (AP)—John W. Taylor, [illegible], Republican member of the Kentucky house of representatives, was shot in the [illegible] and seriously wounded today when three men robbed him near here. Taylor was walking to the home of his father, R. N. Taylor, a farmer.

Although the men took $[illegible]00 in Taylor's purse, he said he believed their real intention was to kill him as a result of his activities in investigating a lynching which occurred here over a year ago. Walter Merrick was lynched while in jail on a charge of dynamiting a country store and seriously injuring Mr. O'Poole, the proprietor.

LOUISVILLE, KY.
TIMES

MAY 24 1934

GIBSON IS ACQUITTED IN SCOTT LYNCHING CASE

(2

Hazard, Ky., May 24 (AP)—Lee Gibson, first of six men to go on trial on charges of participating in the lynching of Rex Scott, Negro, the night of January 24, was acquitted by an Owsley County jury last night.

The defendant did not testify. One Commonwealth witness testified Gibson had said he fired the first shot into the Negro's body after the hanging, but other witnesses failed to link the defendant with the affair.

The other defendants are Petie Carroll, Will Kinser, Ed Bentley, John Watts and George Watkins. The Negro was charged with slugging Alexander Johnson, miner, who died an hour after Scott was lynched.

Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Hawaii.

4625

Mrs. Thalia Massie's Irresponsible Hysteria

Afro-American

3-10-34

A victim of acute alcoholism brought on by a night club party, Thalia Fortescue Massie, white, was rushed to a hospital in Reno, Nevada, last week.

There she was found to be suffering from "irresponsible hysteria," a state of mind common to women or men who are drunk.

Physicians declined to discuss her alleged attempts to commit suicide by jumping from the hospital windows.

Back in 1931 Thalia was the alleged victim of Hawaiian rapists. Failure of island courts to convict the accused men led Thalia and her husband, a navy officer, to murder the man she said attacked her.

She and her husband were convicted of the crime and were quickly pardoned by President Hoover's order.

Last week Thalia was in Reno getting a divorce and getting drunk. The question is, was she drunk and suffering from irresponsible hysteria that night in Hawaii, when she says she was attacked?

Mrs. Massie in Genoa Hospital After Suicide Attempt at Sea

4-7-34

GENOA, Italy, April 6.—(AP)—Mrs. Thalia Fortescue Massie, the center of a sensational attack and murder case in Honolulu more than two years ago, tried to kill herself while en route here because, she said today, "I wanted to die. I regretted having got a divorce from my husband."

Officers of the S. S. Roma disclosed that she had slashed both wrists and threw herself from the top deck four days ago on a voyage from New York.

Professor Darrio Borelli, director of the nervous ailments clinic in Genoa where she was taken after the Roma's arrival yesterday, said the numerous contusions she suffered in the 20-foot fall were not serious, but would require 30 to 40 days for complete recovery.

Mrs. Massie and Lieutenant Thomas Hedges Massie, U. S. N., were divorced in Reno February 23. She had planned a Mediterranean cruise.

Tonight she entered a period of deep sleep and restful quiet, under orders of Dr. Borelli that nothing should be allowed to disturb "the natural effort of a normal and healthy body to throw off the effects of an attempted suicide."

The young woman, who entered the hospital in a hysterical condition, was reported calm and willing to submit to the ministrations of the nurses.

Whereas officers of the Roma declared she was in a state of intense mental depression during the voyage here, Dr. Borelli said tonight "hardly anything remains of yesterday's mood" when, the director asserted, she insisted "I will do it again at the first opportunity."

"She will need careful watching during the next several weeks," the doctor added, "and ought to be looked after even after she has been discharged from here."

Dr. Borelli refused everyone permission to see her, except attendants, because "her recovery depends on absolute quiet."

Since yesterday, he said, "her general state and even her humor are apparently better.

"Last night she said she would repeat the suicide attempt at the first opportunity, but today she hasn't spoken of suicidal intentions. However, it may be she is simulating indifference."

He said no one would be allowed to see her except the American consul, John R. Putnam, who will call tomorrow.

Dr. Borelli diagnosed the mental state of the patient as one of deep melancholy and acute sadness. Several relatives, he said, had cabled from the United States, asking about her condition.

On January 8, 1932, her husband, mother and two other persons were held for the slaying of Mrs. Massie's alleged attacker. Nearly four months later the four defendants were found guilty of manslaughter, but were later pardoned.

Ship's officers said Mrs. Massie threw herself from the top deck, but that they did not know whether she intended to jump into the sea or to a lower deck.

When the vessel reached here it was explained that she fell from the bridge

She had been cared for in the ship's infirmary until the ship arrived.

Putnam was immediately notified on the Roma's arrival. He visited her and ordered her taken to the nursing home.

In her divorce complaint, Mrs. Massie charged the young naval officer with "extreme cruelty, entirely mental in character."

OFFICERS SEE NO DOUBT OF SUICIDE ATTEMPT

NAPLES, Italy, April 6.—(AP)—When the S. S. Roma arrived here this evening her captain, Attilio Frugone, and ship's dactor, Attilio Valliga, described to the Associated Press Mrs. Thalia Fortescue Massie's suicide attempt.

They said her fall from an upper deck and the slashing of her wrists were not related events and that the latter act only could be called an effort to end her life.

"Mrs. Massie was a tourist class passenger aboard the Roma and occupied Cabin 414," Captain Frugone said.

"Soon after the ship left New York we began watching her because she told the ship's officers and passengers she was sick and tired of living, since she left her husband, and that she had no interest in carrying on."

It was learned however, that she had expressed wonder "why they should keep me here" when talking to a hospital attendant.

Dr. Borelli said Mrs. Massie had a good appetite, but that "she smokes all day long, and this does not help her problems any."

Hospital attendants said Mrs. Massie was evidently mystified because officials at the hospital have not permitted her to continue her Mediterranean cruise.

It was said that she had referred several times to the Honolulu affair, recalling that this was about the time of the anniversary of the occurrences that led to the sensational court trial.

Mrs. Massie today requested an Italian-English dictionary and began brushing up on the language. Dr. Borelli's hospital consists of three villas containing several hundred patients. A high, pink plaster wall topped by three feet of barbed wire surrounds the garden in which Mrs. Bassie walked today.

An attendant said that she answered all questions and engages brighfly in conversations, but when she ceases talking her face droops and signs of melancholia become evident. Dr. Borelli continued to insist that she must remain in the hospital for several weeks.

Mrs. Massie Resolves To Abandon Suicide Plans, Consul's Wife Says

4-9-34

GENOA, ITALY, April 8.—(AP)—Mrs. Thalia Fortescue Massie told the wife of the American consul at Genoa today that there will be no more attempts at committing suicide.

"I won't try it again," she told Mrs. John R. Putnam who was allowed by the doctor in charge of the hospital where Mrs. Massie is recuperating to interview her.

Young Mrs. Massie, principal in the Honolulu attack and murder case of two years ago, was confined to a hospital for nervous ailments last Thursday when the Liner Roma brought her here.

Dr. Darrio Borelli, director of the hospital, was quoted as saying Mrs. Massie was "too agitated yet to permit an early prediction of her condition."

He revealed that the stitches taken in her wrists where she had attempted suicide aboard the Rome were removed today.

Dr. Borelli said Mrs. Massie insisted at first she would "do it again at the first opportunity" because of her regret at "having got a divorce from her husband."

At first she was kept under guard but today was allowed to stroll in the gardens surrounding the hospital. Dr. Borelli continued to insist that none but consular authorities should see her.

Attempts Suicide

MRS. THALIA FORTESCUE MASSIE, principal in the sensational assault and lynching case in Honolulu, who recently divorced her husband, attempted suicide en route to Genoa, Italy, it was revealed yesterday. Associated Press dispatches quoted her as saying: "I wanted to die. I regretted having got a divorce from my husband."

Principal In Honolulu Attack-Death Sensation Attempts Suicide On Ship

By A. E. STUNTZ
Associated Press Foreign Staff

GENOA, ITALY, April 6.—(AP)—Mrs. Thalia Fortescue Massie, the center of a sensational attack and murder case in Honolulu more than two years ago, tried to kill herself while en route here because, she said today, "I wanted to die. I regretted having got a divorce from my husband."

Advertiser

Officers of the S. S. Roma disclosed that she had slashed both wrists and thrown herself from the top deck four days ago on a voyage from New York.

Prof. Darrio Borelli, director of the Nervous Ailments Clinic in Genoa where she was taken after the Roma's arrival yesterday, said the numerous contusions she suffered in the 20-foot fall were not serious, but would require 30 to 40 days for complete recovery.

4-7-34

Mrs. Massie and Lieut. Thomas Hedges Massie, U. S. N., were divorced in Reno Feb. 23. She had planned a Mediterranean cruise.

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In her divorce complaint, Mrs. Massie charged the young naval officer with "extreme cruelty, entirely mental in character."

Lynchings-1934

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Louisiana

4626

New York Herald-Tribune

JUL 12 1934

Ask Officials' Ouster in Lynching

NEW ORLEANS, July 11 (UP).—A demand that Governor O. K. Allen remove from office three public officials of Bastrop, La., because they "aided and abetted" lynchers who hanged Andrew McLeod, Negro, Monday night, was made today by the International Labor Defense in a telegram.

TON ROUGE, LA

STATE TIMES

10 1934

FICERS PROBE MOB LYNCHING OF NEGRO ATTACKER

No Arrests Made in Slaying of Prisoner at Bastrop.

Bastrop, La., July 10 (AP)—The stabbed and broken body of Andrew McLeod, a 26-year-old negro farmer, today bore mute evidence of a North Louisiana lynching and officers were investigating the mob action.

No arrests had been made early today from among the mob estimated at 300 men, but Dist. Atty. Frank Hawthorn was conducting an inquiry.

The negro's body was lying in an undertaking establishment where it was taken after being cut down last night from the limb of an oak tree on the courthouse square of Bastrop, the seat of government of Morehouse parish.

McLeod was accused of attempting to attack a white girl early Sunday near Jones, La., 30 miles from here. He was arrested shortly after the alleged attempted attack and officers were preparing to file formal charges against him at the time the mob battered down the door of the small brick jail house last night and seized him.

Mob Forms Quietly.

Witnesses reported that the mob formed quietly and grew to such proportions that officers in the town were unable to halt their plans. A telepone pole and a railroad rail were used to burst into the cell where the accused negro was crouched, crying and pleading for mercy.

These reports stated that the mob went without demonstration from the jail house to the courthouse about a block away and hanged McLeod to an oak tree on the courthouse lawn.

The negro was forced to stand on the top of an automobile while the rope was fastened and then he was pushed clear. It was declared that the first rope broke and the victim fell to the ground where an unidentified man ran up and slashed his throat.

A stronger rope was obtained and McLeod was hanged and then the mob dispersed.

Reports stated that Chief of Police B. C. Walton was out of town at the time of the lynching and there was no night marshal at the jail. Two other negro prisoners in the jail were said to have pointed out McLeod to the leaders of the mob after they gained entrance. The other prisoners were not molested.

Sheriff Fred Carpenter reported that he and his deputies were unable to halt the mob plans. The sheriff later was said to have aided citizens in taking down the body of the negro.

Officers said McLeod had admitted that he attempted to attack the girl, 19 years old, and a member of a prominent North Louisiana family.

The young woman reported to officers that she was returning home from a dance late Saturday night with her escort, who had been drinking, when their automobile left the road and she started walking to a gasoline station up the road in search of aid.

She said a negro grabbed her and tried to pull her through a wire fence beside the road, but that she fought him off and he fled at the approach of another car.

JURORS WILL PROBE LYNCHING OF NEGRO

Will Investigate Death After Wild Auto Ride

Post 10-1-34

By United Press.

SHREVEPORT, La., Oct. 1.—The Caddo parish grand jury which opened its fall term today was expected to investigate the lynching of Grafton Paige, 20-year-old negro, at Bethany several weeks ago.

Authorities claimed the negro was lynched by members of his own race who became angered when he went on a rampage and drove his automobile through the streets in a reckless manner.

The body of the negro, with a rope around his neck, was found in a clump of bushes. The district attorney's office said today the case would receive only "cursory" examination if presented at all.

SHREVEPORT, LA.

TIMES

SEP 25 1934

NO BILLS ARE RETURNED IN LYNCHING CASE

Morehouse Grand Jury Overlooks Death of Negro in Filing Report

Bastrop, Sept. 24 (Special).—Following a thorough investigation of the recent lynching of a negro charged with attempted criminal assault on a white girl, which took place on the courthouse lawn in Bastrop last July, the Morehouse parish grand jury today returned no indictments after questioning a score of witnesses.

The grand jury made its report today after being in session exactly one week, the longest an inquistorial body has been in session in this parish at one time in many years. The jury was impanelled one week ago today, and was in session every day except Saturday and Sunday.

Probe 45 Cases.

Out of 45 cases investigated 19 true bills were returned and seven cases were permitted. Included in the indictments were three of a major nature, two murders and one criminal assault. Murder indictments were returned against Arthur L. Hedge, white man, charged with killing his brother-in-law, Harvey Thomas, which occurred in Beekman several months ago. The other murder indictment was returned aginast Richard Young, negro, charged with killing Augustus Hamilin, negro, in Oak Ridge on Sept. 1.

Lloyd Davis, negro, was indicted on a charge of criminal assault on a negro girl in Oak Ridge. Six negroes were indicted on a charge of poisoning fish.

No bills were returned against Miss Annie Domino, Bastrop girl, who is alleged to have run over and fatally injured Henry Morgan, paper mill worker, last August, and Walter Penny, negro tax driver, who ran over and killed a four-year-old negro boy last August on highway near Bastrop.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

ITEM

OCT 1 1934

Probe Lynching Of Negro By Negroes

(By The United Press)

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Lynchings - 1934
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

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SHREVEPORT, LA.
TIMES

JUL 11 1934

IDENTITY OF MOB LEADERS INVESTIGATED

Morehouse Parish Officials to Present Their Findings to Grand Jury

Bastrop, La., July 10. (Special)—District Attorney Frank W. Hawthorne and Sheriff J. Fred Carpenter announced tonight following a conference of parish and city officials that a vigorous investigation is now being pushed to ascertain the leaders and members of the mob who took part in the lynching Monday night of Andrew McLeod, negro, charged with a criminal attack on a 19-year-old Bastrop girl.

Mayor J. R. Ludlum of Bastrop and C. C. Walton, Bastrop chief of police, joined in the statement with the parish officials announcing the investigation. It was announced that when all information has been obtained and the investiagtion is completed, it will be placed before the grand jury at the September session.

In view of the fact that the district court recesses within a few days for the summer, it was deemed advisable not to a call a special grand jury session, the statement issued by the parish and city officials stated. It was pointed out that to call the grand jury into session now would not allow sufficient time to complete the investigation before the summer court recess.

Indications that the International Labor Defense may take a part in the investigation were revealed tonight by the receipt of a telegram by Sheriff J. Fred Carpenter from the New Orleans district of the union protesting against the lynching and urging an immediate investigation. The telegram read in part as follows:

"Protest brutal lynching Andrew McLeod. Hold you and chief of police responsible for said lynching. Demand immediate arrests and punishment."

BATON ROUGE, LA.
ADVOCATE

JUL 11 1934

Vigorous Probe of Lynch Case Being Pressed

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Louisiana

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6
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.
6

OUISIANA SHERIFF SUED IN NEGRO'S DEATH

NEW ORLEANS, April 27.—(AP)—Two Arkansas negroes today sued a Louisiana sheriff in the federal district court here for $10,000 damages for the lynching of the 16-year-old son in Assumption parish last year.

The plaintiffs charged the sheriff with "culpable negligence in permitting an innocent prisoner to be taken from his custody," alleging the young lynch victim was later shown to have had no connection with the slaying of a young white girl, for which he had been arrested, and for which the mob hanged him from a bridge stringer.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
TRIBUNE

JUL 11 1934

SHERIFF'S REMOVAL DEMANDED OF ALLEN

Labor Defense Telegraphs Governor In Lynching Protest

A demand that Governor Allen remove from office Sheriff J. F. Carpenter, Chief of Police B. C. Walton and District Attorney Frank W. Hawthorne of Bastrop on the ground that they aided and abetted the lynchers who hanged Andrew McCloud, Negro, charged with an attempted assault on a white girl, was made by the International Labor Defense yesterday in a telegram to the Governor.

The telegram was given out here by Jane Speed of the International Labor Defense office, with a telegram that the office sent to Sheriff Carpenter protesting against the lynchings, demanding the immediate arrest and punishment by death of the lynchers and calling for the "immediate stoppage of terroristic attacks on Negro people." Similar demands were also contained in the telegram sent the Governor.

"Vigorously protest barbarus lynching of Andrew McCloud at Bastrop," the telegram stated. "Charge Sheriff Carpenter, Chief of Police Walton and District Attorney Hawthorne with aiding and abetting lynchers. Demand their immediate removal from office. Demand immediate arrest and punishment by death of all lynchers. Pledge to carry on an unceasing fight against terror lynchings and oppression for full equal rights for Negro people." In the telegram to the Sheriff the lynching was denounced as brutal.

Lynchings - 1934

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Maryland

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BALTIMORE, MD.
EVE. SUN
FEB 21 1934

LANE SUBMITS TESTIMONY OF MOB WITNESSES

State Police List Of Names Put Into Committee Record

SUBCOMMITTEE ACTS TO MAKE LIST PUBLIC

Detailed Armwood Evidence Presented At Chairman's Request

By Thomas M. O'Neill

Washington, Feb. 21—Attorney-General William Preston Lane of Marylan today related to a Senate Judiciar subcommittee the long story of his efforts to bring to trial under local law the leaders of the mob that last October dragged a prisoner from the Princess Anne jail and hanged and burne him.

At the climax of his evidence he read to the committee the names, addresse and occupations of men named as leaders in the lynching by one or more members of the detail of State police who were overwhelmed by the mob as they sought to defend the prisoner.

His entire testimony, including the affidavits of State police commanders who were with the men assaulted in their defense of the jail, was made public by the committee after it had first accepted it privately.

Committee Makes List Public

Those accused by State policemen were named by Mr. Lane in a resume he had prepared for this hearing of all the testimony he had gathered from the State police who were in Princess Anne. He read it into the record after the committee chairman had asked whether he had "the names of several persons against whom you think you have sufficient evidence to warrant convictions in the lynching of George Armwood."

For a time the committee pondered whether to keep this testimony confidential, but then decided to make it public and instructed Mr. Lane to read it into the record. This he did, explaining that he had summarized the affidavits of each officer of the State police and had divided the resume into sections each devoted to one individual, giving in each case the names of the officers ready to testify.

Lane Reads Resume

Mr. Lane's summary of the evidence as read into the record was as follows:

Rusty Heath—Full name is believed to be Marby L. Heath.

Occupation—Unknown, but was formerly jailer at the jail at Salisbury.

Address—Princess Anne, formerly Salisbury.

Heath is well known by sight by many of the force who were present at the night of the lynching. He is positively identified by Officers Bradley, Serman, Schleuter, Durham, Corporal Falkenstein, Sergeants Dryden, Haddaway, Weber and Lieutenant Ridgely. He was seen in front of the hotel at the Deals Island intersection before the jail, at the tree where the Negro was first hanged and by Judge Duer's car as he made his speech. He was drunk, was in the front of the crowd shoving, yelling and encouraging the crowd, while in front of the jail he was shoving to get on the steps and while at the first hanging had the rope in his hand as the Negro's body was lying on th eground. He was also seen pulling on the other end of the rope while the Negro was hanged.

William P. Hearn.

Occupation—Contract hauler by truck.

Address—Salisbury, Maryland.

Postively identified by Sergeant Weber, Corporal Norris. It is believed that he can be identified also by some of the following officers. [illegible] Corporal Norris, Sergeant Spioch, Officer Miller, Corporal Falkenstein and Officer Schleuter. He was seen by officers Weber and Serman shoving, yelling and pushing in front of the jail and attempting to get on the steps and shoving the policemen off. If identified by the other officers before-mentioned, he will be placed before the jail attacking the officers, agitating and directing the crowd and he may be the man who threw the rope over the tree at the first hanging.

Irving Adkins.

Occupation—Track foreman for the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Address—Oretta, which is the first station from Princess Anne, where the old road crosses the new road on the way to Salisbury.

Adkins was positively identified by Sergeant Dryden and Lieutenant Ridgely. Sergeant Dryden has known Adkins for some years and he pointed him out to Lieutenant Ridgely at the time he first noticed him in front of the hotel. It is almost certain that Adkins will also be identified by several of the following officers: Randall, Serman, Durham, Weber and Schleuter. Adkins was seen by Officer Dryden in front of the hotel when the crowd was gathering. He was the leader of this crowd and is the one who yelled "Let's go!" and led the crowd to the jail. He was subsequently seen by Lieutenant Ridgely at the south side of the jail and at the northeast intersection when Judge Duer made his speech. On both of these occasions he was yelling "Come on, follow me; they won't shoot!" and was leading or attempting to lead the crowd. It is believed that he is one of the men who had a hold of the ram at the jail which hit Officer Serman, and that he will be recognized as one of the first leaders of the crowd at the northeast intersection by Officer Durham, as well as a leader in front of the jail by Sergeant Weber. Positive identification by Officers Randall, Serman, Durham, Weber and Bohler depends upon obtaining either a picture or seeing Adkins.

William H. Thompson.

Occupation—Unknown.

Address—Princess Anne, Md.

Was picked out by Officers Bradley and Quandt as the seventh man on the coroner's jury from a photograph of the coroner's jury. He was in front of the jail pushing against the police line, yelling to the crowd to get a pole and had a hold of the ram when it crashed the jail door.

Jack Walloper—Full name is known as Jack Walloper but his real name is reported to be Jack Sterling or Jackson Sterling or Randolph Sterling.

Occupation—Unknown.

Address—Crisfield, Md.

Officer Wheeler has known him for some time and positively identified him as pulling on the rope at the second hanging. It is possible that he may be identified by Officers Wheeler, Cubbage and Sergeant Weber upon being seen by them. If he is identified by Officers Wheeler, Cubbage and Sergeant Weber, he will be in the crowd in front of the jail at the Deals Island intersection and at the first hanging, at all of which places he was a leader.

Shelburn Leater.

Occupation — Meterman for the Eastern Shore Public Service Company.

Address—Salisbury, Md.

Is identified by Officer Bradley before the jail where he was yelling, going into the place and in the front of the mob. He is supposed to be the man who hit Captain Johnson.

Big Boy Smith.

Occupation—Prize fighter.

Address—Salisbury, Md.

Is known as Big Boy Smith. Fights under this name and is registered in the State Athletic Commission under this name. Smith is identified by Officer Durham, who recognized him and knew him, having seen him fight at Laurel. Is also recognized by Officer Bohler, who recognized the photograph of Smith when he was shown the same. Smith was in the front of the crowd at the northeast intersection on the north side of the jail, pushing against the police line. He was later seen by the side of the jail with a brick in his hand, which he refused to drop at the command of Officer Bohler.

Martin Duer.

Occupation—Unknown.

Address—Pocomoke or Snow Hill.

There are three Duers in Pocomoke and Salisbury and it is impossible to know which Duer this is. A boy giving his name as Martin Duer can be identified at the first hanging with the rope in his hand while the Negro's body was on the ground with the rope at the first hanging, by Lieutenant Ridgely, Sergeant Weber, Officers Schleuter, Langrall, Kuhn and possibly Corporal Wheeler. He was at the hanging holding the rope and by Officer Schleuter was seen pulling the rope.

Mr. Lane appeared as the second witness on the second day of the subcommittee's hearing on the Wagner-Costigan bill. He had been subpoenaed, and appeared with a mass of documents representing the records and correspondence concerning his efforts, beginning with the lynching October 18 and culminating with the appearance of the National Guard, to seize the suspects, and describing the failure to secure the action he sought.

Questioned By Senator

Mr. Lane's testimony drew special attention from one of the authors of the pending Federal anti-lynching bill, Senator Robert F. Wagner, who has urged that local laws and local officials will not suffice to put down lynching in communities where it is looked upon with public favor. After Mr. Lane had given details of his contacts with the Somerset county authorities, principally State's Attorney John B. Robins, in the effort to arrest, indict and try the suspects named by the State police, Senator Wagner was permitted by the committee to question him.

"You asked Robins, the local prosecutor, to assist in this matter, did you not?" he asked.

"I asked him to make an arrest," Mr. Lane replied.

"He did not?" asked the Senator.

"That is right."

"Did you communicate with the judges of this particular circuit along these lines?"

"Yes."

"Do you know whether the grand jury has concluded its investigation without acting?"

"The grand jury has adjourned."

At the afternoon session of the subcommittee Mr. Lane was again instructed to take the stand. He presented a hitherto undisclosed list of statements from the State police detailing the actions of a number of individuals. At the same time he told the committee that no trace has been found of a suspect once identified as Martin Duer, and indicated a belief that the name was fictitious.

After this testimony he launched into a history of mob outbreaks in the recent history of Maryland, beginning with the Euel Lee murders.

The police affidavits offered by Mr Lane were as follows:

By Patrolman C. B. Durham:

I positively identify "Big Boy" Smith as being in the crowd on the night of the lynching at Princess Anne. He was in front of the crowd pushing against the line.

I also positively identify Ralph Powell as being among the crowd on the night of the lynching.

I can also positively identify "Rusty" Heath. I saw him standing by the running board of Judge Duer's car while Judge Duer was making his second speech, about 7.45 P. M.

He was talking and saying that he knew Judge Duer and that no one was going to harm Judge Duer while he was there. I also saw Heath at the inquest October 24 and positively identified him.

Patrolman E. R. Quandt:

I positively identify William H. Thompson as being in the crowd in front of the jail. I first saw him about 7.15 P. M. I saw him from time to time from then until the jail was broken into. About five minutes before the battering rams appeared, William Thompson, who was directly in front of the jail in a group of several men, shouted, "Let's get a pole."

He then left the front of the jail and about five minutes later reappeared with about fifteen other men, carrying a battering ram.

Patrolman C. C. Serman:

I positively identify "Rusty" Heath as being in the crowd in front of the jail. I have known Rusty Heath for fifty years.

Patrolman M. T. Bohler:

I positively identify "Big Boy" Smith as being on the road in front of the jail. Smith had a brick. Several of our men had been knocked down with bricks before I saw Smith with the brick in his hand. I tried to keep an eye on Smith, but he got lost in the crowd. He wore a baseball cap of different colors.

Patrolman J. M. Bradley:

I can positively identify William H. Thompson as being in the mob. I remembered seeing Thompson in the front row of the crowd, continually pushing forward. He was one of the most determined to get in the jail. When we were forced back to within ten feet of the jail steps, I remember pushing him in the face to keep him back.

I positively identify Shelburn Lester as being directly in front of the jail door just before I was injured. He was shouting and shoving and trying his best to get past the police. Corporal Wheeler struck Lester on the head with his stick. Lester was knocked back through the crowd about twenty feet.

On October 20 I again saw Lester in Salisbury. Lester then had a bandage on his head.

I can positively identify Rusty Heath, whom I knew before the war. I saw Heath about 7.15 P. M. encouraging the mob and inciting them to action. I saw him off and on until I was forced back to the jail steps. At that time Heath was right in front of the crowd, shoving to get up the steps and yelling: "Let's go; let's get him." Heath had been drinking.

Corporal N. G. Falkenline:

I can positively identify Rusty Heath. I first saw him about 5.30 P. M. I met him near the jail door about 8.15 P. M. He was moving about in the crowd. He had been drinking.

Sergt. William Weber:

I can positively identify McQuay. I first saw him in the crowd about fifteen feet from the jail door. He steadily advanced with the rest of the mob toward the jail door. He kept shouting to the crowd to come on, that the police would not shoot.

He was the No. 1 man at the head of the steps and kept shouting: "Let's go get the ——, let's go."

I can positively identify the man Judge Duer spoke to and addressed as Mays.

I can positively identify William P. Hearn. I saw him directly in front of the jail just before the battering rams came up. He was a leader. He shouted "Let's go get him!" He came up to the door and attempted to shove us off the steps.

I can positively identify Rusty Heath. He was the leader of the first mob, about one hundred men. I grabbed him and pushed him back. The second time he was standing by the tree where Armwood was being hanged. He had hold of the rope.

I can positively identify the driver of the State roads truck.

Corporal J. F. Norris:

I can positively identify William P. Hearn. I first saw him about 7.30 on the south side of the jail. At this time he was in the mob, just pushing forward with the rest of the people. Later I saw him in front of the jail before the main rush. This time he kept shouting "Let's go, come on," just before the mob rushed. Then he ran to the jail steps, followed by the mob.

At the outset of Mr. Lane's appearance as a witness, Senator Frederick Van Nuys, chairman of the subcommittee, announced that the scope of the Maryland Attorney-General's testimony would be largely determined by Mr. Lane himself, and that the committee was prepared to listen to any suggestions he might have to make, in the light of recent occurrences in Maryland that were referred to by the committee as "incidents." The lynching of George Armwood at Princess Anne last October was the second in Maryland in as many years.

Asked About Bill's Legality

"I should like for the committee to give me an outline of what it would like to have," Mr. Lane said, and he later indicated a disposition against commenting on the pending anti-lynching bill. The committee said that it would like to hear his views on the constitutionality of the Costigan-Wagner bill, to which Mr. Lane replied that, without studying it, he had no doubts concerning its legality.

He was asked his opinion about the policy of a Federal statute for the punishment of lynchers, and said:

"I hesitate to express an opinion because I have not had a sufficient opportunity to study the laws that have been enacted in a number of States. Any effort to stamp out lynching is to be highly commended, whether by State or Federal action.

"I believe that mob violence can be better treated by action before a lynching than by punitive action thereafter.

"Some effective means in affected areas for the prompt removal of prisoners could do more to end lynching than anything else. There is, too, the question of more adequate police protection. You can't put your finger on any single cause of lynching, but lynching usually occurs in the more sparsely populated areas, and better policing in such areas would help."

Mr. Lane indicated a belief that a State constabulary would serve the ends of better policing he suggested.

"I mean police protection by the State, rather than by the local authorities," he added. "Local officials, in Maryland at least, are elected and are thus amendable to local influences."

On the question of Federal legislation, Mr. Lane said he had no doubt that it would be effective in States where public psychology supported it and was ready to "do anything to stamp out lynching," but he added that he did not know "how effective it might be in States where the public psychology is dilatory or antagonistic."

Dieterich Questions Penalty

Senator Dieterich, member of the committee and foe of its provision calling for a $10,000 penalty to be collected from communities in which lynchings are perpetrated, asked for the opinion of Mr. Lane on that subject, as he had asked every other witness.

"Any penalty that is imposed by the law probably has some effect," the Attorney-General said, "but I do not know how effective the penalty provided in this bill would be."

This discussion had this far avoided mention of details of Maryland lynchings. When Mr. Lane paused after Senator Dieterich's questions, however Senator Van Nuys leaned back, stared at the ceiling, and then asked:

"Have you the names of several people against whom you think you have sufficient evidence to obtain convictions in the lynching of George Armwood?"

Mr. Lane said he had.

"Will you leave them with the committee, and will you leave them thus to be regarded as private or as part of the record?"

Mr. Lane said he was prepared to put the names before the committee and leave it to that body to decide whether they were to be treated as confidential or as a matter to be printed in the record of the committee's proceedings.

"I would not attempt to restrict the committee," he added.

Hands Letter To Chairman

He handed to the chairman a letter sent by him November 15 to State's Attorney Robins naming nine persons. Two of these names were later found to be fictitious, and one of those named was absolved by the State police. In rapid succession, Mr. Lane then handed up to the committee a voluminous bulk of papers and records, detailing even telephone conversations with the Eastern Shore officials, stenographically recorded.

He announced that the mass contained the affidavits of Capt. Edward McK. Johnson, commander of the State police, and Lieut. Ruxton M Ridgely. The latter had offered two affidavits, one comprising fifteen pages of testimony and the other a synopsis of the larger.

"These contain a description of everything that happened from the time Armwood was arrested, through the lynching, and statements with respect to each individual," the attorney general said.

"I have also a resume of the testimony of all the witnesses against each individual I thought should be arrested and charged with participation in the lynching."

The committee accepted all the documents, commenting that they were too bulky for all to be included in the printed record. Senator Van Nuys announced that the committee would confer privately before deciding whether to make public the testimony contained in the affidavits and resumes. A short time later he said that it was the sense of the committee that they should be public, and Mr Lane was instructed to read the resume of testimony.

He read the names, addresses and occupations through the list, explaining at times that the names were in doubt because of aliases or because the men were generally known by nicknames. He told the committee that one Butler, who had been named in the list, was exonerated by the State police when they saw him later. He had been mistakenly named, the Attorney-General said.

Senator Dieterich interrupted the reading to ask whether the suspects "were the highest type of people in the community." Mr. Lane answered that he knew none of them personally, but the Senator said that the aliases, names and nicknames would indicate they were not.

Mr. Lane was accompanied to the hearing by an assistant, C. G. A. Anderson, who left a sick bed to aid in the presentation of the evidence the State Law Department amassed.

Shortly after Mr. Lane reached the hearing room another Maryland witness-official arrived. He was the retiring United States District Attorney, Simon E. Sobeloff, about whose summons to appear there has been considerable mystery. Mr. Sobeloff said he was not aware why he was called. And that he would not decide whether to offer recommendations until after he was questioned by the committee.

Late in the day, Mr. Soleboff was called as a witness. He said he had studied the Federal law and was convinced there was no existing statute to permit Federal intervention.

The witness said he believes the bill probably would be held constitutional under the Fourteenth Amendment.

Mr. Sobeloff told the committee that he had watched closely the developments on the Eastern Shore and had examined the lynchings "for the propriety of action in the Federal Court under the civil rights statutes," but added that he was "forced to concede that under the existing laws the United States Court was without jurisdiction."

Answering questions from the committee on the probable constitutionality of the Costigan-Wagner bill, Mr. Sobeloff said "there are serious questions to be argued against it, but the probability of its constitutionality is sufficient to warrant favorable action on it by Congress."

He said he was convinced more impartial juries to try lynchers could be drawn in a Federal than in a county court.

Hearing Room Fills Early

The hearing room began to fill half an hour before the scheduled start of the hearing. The spectators were divided about equally between whites and Negroes.

Earlier a group of sound technicians setting up the amplifying system and others, including a trio of Capitol police, had amused themselves with mimicry of the some of the witnesses at yesterday's hearing, the first.

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Maryland

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Legal Punishment of Lynchers.
6

One of the police, sitting in the witness stand, aimed an assumed and shrill falsetto at the microphone and said:

"Maryland is no longer a free State. We can't get anybody to be against lynching."

The mimicry was a close parallel of the complaint voiced yesterday by Miss Elizabeth Gilman, representing the Church League for Industrial Democracy.

Senator Huey P. Long entered the hearing room before the first witness was called and conferred with the committee chairman, Senator Frederick Van Nuys. It was indicated that he sought an opportunity to oppose the measure before the committee. He raised his voice and [illegible]:

"You fellows are trying to put a lot of good Democrats on the spot."

He pointed his [illegible] Van Nuys and Senator Dieterich, another member of the committee, and said:

"Before this is over I'm going to prove both of you fellows were in on lynchings." 2-21-34

Tells Of Cry: "Lynch Lane!"

The first witness was the Rev. Asbury Smith, chairman of the Maryland Anti-Lynching Association, who told the committee that a Salisbury mob discussed a lynch attack on Attorney-General Lane.

"Some in that crowd at Salisbury yelled, 'Lynch Lane,'" he testified:

He said that anyone reared in a "lynching community"—he was born on the Eastern Shore—realizes that any specific lynching has the backing "of overwhelming local sentiment."

Mr. Smith urged as of outstanding importance of the section of the Costigan bill providing for a $10,000 penalty on the community in which a lynching occurred. This brought him into an immediate wrangle with Senator Dieterich, who started yesterday expressing opposition to that section.

Insists On Penalty Clause

Mr. Smith insisted that the penalty provision was the salient part of the bill for preventing lynching.

On the Eastern Shore, he declared, lynching meets public favor and any prosecution will come to naught. There is a possibility of successful prosecution in the Federal Court at Baltimore, he said, if a Federal statute against lynching is enacted.

Senator Van Nuys interrupted his testimony with the comment:

"In the event of a prosecution of lynchers, the people who took part in a lynching would be the first to claim the protection of the law, wouldn't they?"

From the resume Mr. Lane went on to his correspondence while he was seeking to get the local authorities to act. He read, among others, a communication from Mr. Robins protesting that the State police might be mistaken in their identifications and, consequently, if the persons named were taken into custody by order of the State's Attorney "innocent persons might be thrown into a felon's cage."

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9 NAMED AS 'SHORE' LYNCHERS

WASHINGTON, D. C.
NEWS
FEB 21 1934

Senate Committee Hears Lane Assert Proof of Identity

Present Affiadavits of Policemen Who Knew Men Personallly at Hearings on Measure

The names of nine alleged lynchers of George Armwood, colored, hanged and burned at Princess Anne, Md., early last October, today were laid before a Senate sub-committee conducting a hearing on the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill.

William Preston Lane Jr., attorney general of Maryland, gave the committee names, in documentary evidence, sworn to by 24 state policemen, who were attacked by the mob that dragged Armwood from the jail.

BLANK SUBPENAS

The sub-committee, it was learned, will consider in executive session the possibility of bringing the nine men before them. Blank subpenas, it was also learned, are now in one of the committee member's office.

Lane said the alleged lynchers were well known to the 24 policemen and explained that their identifications were positive.

Those Lane named both orally and in affidavits to the sub-committee were:

ONE WAS JAILER

"Rusty" Heath, former Salisbury jailer, now said to be living in Princess Anne. "Ten policemen," said Lane, "can positively identify this man as being in front of the hotel in Princess Anne exciting the mob.

He can also be identified as going to jail, being with the mob as it took Armwood to a tree and is pointed out as having the rope in his hands and pulling it up. He was said to have been very drunk at the time."

William P. Hearn, of Salisbury, who Lane said could be identified as shoving and yelling in front of the jail, directing the mobbers and in a number of instances, taking charge of affairs.

Irving Adkins, of Loretta, Md., who also can be identified, Lane said, as a leader of the crowd in front of the hotel and jail.

"We have two policemen," explained Lane, "who identify Adkins as yelling to the mob, 'Let's go, they won't shoot.'" Lane said that Adkins could also be identified by the policemen as one of the men who swung the "ram" in front of the jail.

William H. Thompson, Princess Anne druggist, who is said to have yelled to the crowd:

"Let's get a pole."

Jack Wolliver, alias Jack Sterling, of Crisfield, Md. Lane said he could be identified as pulling on the rope with which Armwood was hanged.

Sheldon Lester, of Salisbury, the Attorney General stated that Lester is the man who hit Capt. Edward MacK. Johnston, of the State Police with a brick.

BOXER NAMED

"Big Boy" Smith, a professional prize fighter of Salisbury, who is said by Lane to have been seen throwing bricks and pushing and charging against the state troopers.

Martin Duer, of Pocomoke or Snow Hill. He was accused, according to Lane, of having had a rope in his hand. Lane explained that there are several Duers in the section, but that Martin is believed to be the name and can easily be identified.

The ninth man's first name is not known, but his last is McQuay, Lane said. He can be identified as being with the mob when it formed and also in front of the jail.

While Lane read this information to the sub-committee, he also gave it in a mass of affidavits and documents.

READS LETTERS

He also read a series of correspondence between himself and John B. Robbins, states attorney of Somerset County, in which the lynching took place. The letters showed that Lane had given the names of the men, along with evidence to Robbins, suggesting that the nine be arrested and arraigned before a magistrate.

Robbins disapproved this procedure, contending that the suspects would be liberated by another mob. He suggested to Lane that the evidence be given to a grand jury.

WAGNER QUESTIONS

Sen. Wagner (D., N. Y.), co-sponsor of the lynching bill, interrupted Lane at this point.

"Is this man Robbins elected to office by voters of his section?" he asked.

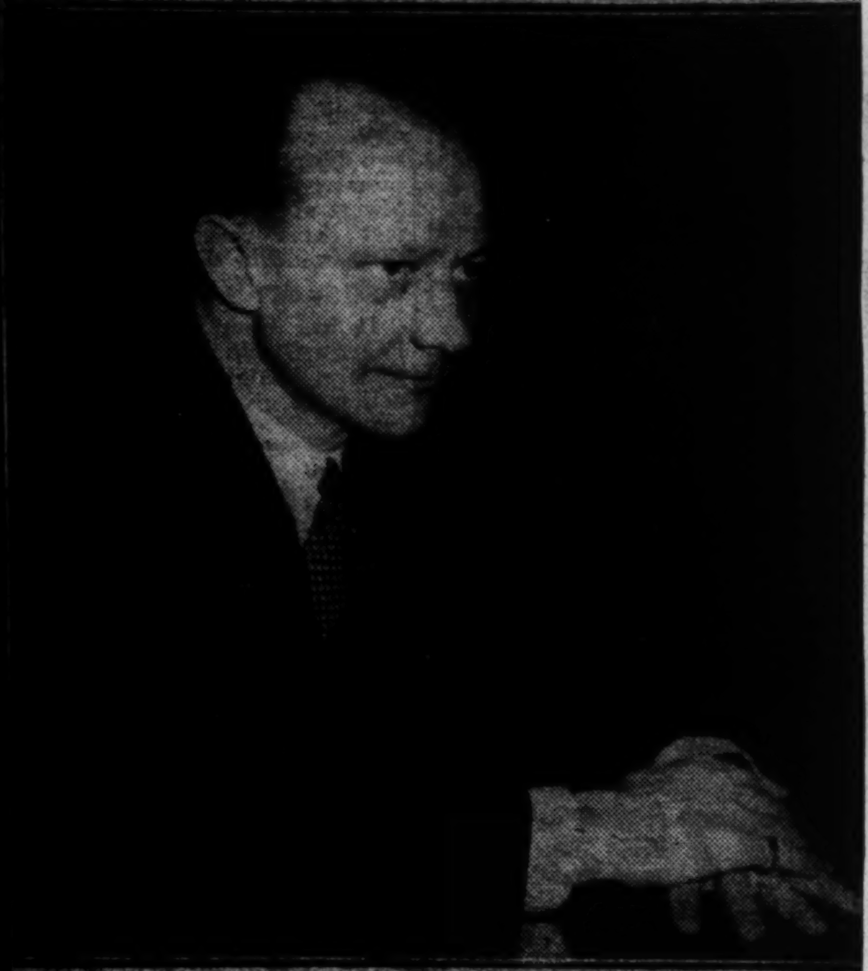
"He is," said Lane.

Lane then related how he took National Guardsmen to the Eastern Shore on Nov. 29 and arrested four of the men against whom he had evidence.

Lane and the guardsmen were driven out of Salisbury by a brickbat throwing mob.

Four of the suspects were taken to Baltimore, later brought back to Somerset County and released on habeas corpus writs. A week after this action, the Somerset County grand jury failed to take action against the men.

'He Had a Rope in His Hand . . .'



William Preston Lane Jr., attorney general of Maryland, is shown here as he told a Senate sub-committee the names of the alleged Gorge Armwood lynchers at a hearing on the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill today.

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
March 16, 1934

Accused Marylander Denies Lynching at Washington Inquiry

WASHINGTON, March 16.—(AP) William H. Thompson, a Princess Anne, Maryland, druggist, Friday denied to a senate committee that he participated in the lynching of George Armwood last October. Thompson was named by William Prenton Lane, Jr. Maryland attorney general as one of the participants in the lynching.

"I am thankful for this opportunity to state my side," Thompson told the judiciary sub-committee considering anti-lynching legislation. "It is the first opportunity I have had to do so."

Thompson presented Chairman Van Nuys with a score of letters "from respectable men of the community" which he said attested to his good character.

"I am innocent of any charge pertaining to the lynching of George Armwood," Thompson said. "I was not in town that night—I can prove with witnesses that I was in Salisbury at a moving picture."

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BALTIMORE, MD.
EVE. SUN
FEB 22 1934

Mr. Lane Testifies

Whether Mr. W. Preston Lane, the Attorney-General of Maryland, has any exalted political ambitions or not, we do not pretend to know. But we do know that if he does nourish such ambitions, his appearance before the Senate subcommittee on lynching yesterday and his testimony before that committee took courage of a high order.

There is no use blinking the fact that there is a great lynching sentiment in this State. The defenders of the Salisbury and Princess Anne mobs were not all from the lower Eastern Shore. Those who ventured to speak out against lynching were attacked not only by the actual communities where the lynching occurred but from all parts of the State. When Governor Ritchie ventured to use troops to arrest witnesses he was called a tyrant and his State militia men were called Cossacks. Obviously denouncing lynching is not good practical politics in Maryland.

Despite this fact, Mr. Lane appeared before the committee, gave its members, without hedging or equivocation, the complete story of the Princess Anne affair and named names. He answered all questions put to him even to the point of expressing opinions as well as facts when opinions were called for. So clear, so direct and so obviously sincere was his testimony that the chairman, Senator Van Nuys, congratulated him from the stand and when he concluded the assembled audience broke into spontaneous applause.

It is pleasant to know that although Maryland's record as a lynching State is a black one, she was represented on this occasion by an official who is against the whole business and is not afraid to say so.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
POST
FEB 24 1934

Princess Anne Druggist Asks Lynch Hearing

Thompson Declares Lane's Accusation Is "False and Libelous."

William H. Thompson, Princess Anne druggist and one of the men named earlier in the week by W. Preston Lane, Maryland attorney general, as participating in the lynching of George Armwood, colored, yesterday telegraphed Senator Frederick Van Nuys (Democrat), Indiana, demanding a hearing before the Judiciary subcommittee in charge of the anti-lynching legislation.

Thompson, in his telegram, said he would come to Washington at his own expense and at the convenience of the committee "to deny the false and libelous statements given to you by Attorney General Lane implicating me in the lynching of George Armwood."

Senator Van Nuys, chairman of the committee, replied that the request would be laid before the committee at its next meeting. It is believed that Thompson's demand will be granted, as well as any of the other eight persons named by Lane. The committee, however, has no funds and all witnesses must pay their own expenses.

Thompson was one of four men arrested last November by the Maryland militia on a charge of participating in the Princess Anne lynching. The quartet was subsequently released by the court at Princess Anne on a writ of habeas corpus, without a hearing of the evidence gathered by Lane. The latter was given the Senate committee this week.

In a dispatch to The Post from Princess Anne, Thompson was quoted as stating that he had more than 50 reputable witnesses whom he expects to bring to Washington to prove that he was not in Princess Anne on the night of the lynching. He said he was in Salisbury and knew nothing of the lynching until his return home at Princess Anne.

"It is all a pack of lies," said Thompson, according to the dispatch, and Lane knows it. "In naming me before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Lane has done irreparable damage to my character. I have been absolved of all connection with lynching by the Somerset grand jury and Lane's continued attempts to connect me with the crime has assumed the aspects of a personal attack.

"I intend to see what can be done about it and will welcome opportunity to go before Senate committee and for all time clear my name of the stigma Lane has placed upon it."

Thompson intimated, the dispatch stated, that he will enter suit for $100,000 libel against Lane and the military authorities who arrested him here last winter.

(Reprinted from late editions of last week)

LANE NAMES 9 MARYLANDERS LYNCH SUSPECTS

Afro-American
3-3-34

Md. Attorney-General Gives Senate Data on Armwood Lynching.

Baltimore, Md.

SAY EX-JAILER HAD THE ROPE

State Police Identified All of the Men.

BULLETIN!

WASHINGTON — The nine lynch suspects in the Armwood case, as named Wednesday by Attorney General W. Preston Lane, Jr., will not be subpoenaed for appearance before the subcommittee holding the hearing on the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill. Their testimony would add little of value, Senator Van Nuys stated.

WASHINGTON. — Testifying before the sub-committee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, here Wednesday, William Preston Lane, attorney-general of Maryland, gave the names, addresses and occupations of nine alleged leaders of the mob that lynched George Armwood at Princess Anne, Md., last October.

His entire testimony, including affidavits of state police commanders, was made public after having been accepted privately by the committee. The summary of evidence as read into the record, follows:

RUSTY HEATH.

Full name believed to be Marby L. Heath.

Occupation—Unknown, but was formerly jailer at the jail at Salisbury.

Address—Princess Anne, formerly Salisbury.

Heath is well known by sight by many of the force who were present at the night of the lynching. He is positively identified by Officers Bradley, Serman, Schleuter, Durham, Corporal Falkenstein, Sergeants Dryden Haddaway, Weber and Lieutenant Ridgely. He was seen in front of the hotel at the Deals Island intersection before the jail, at the tree where the Negro was first hanged and by Judge Duer's car as he made his speech. He was drunk, was in the front of the crowd shoving, yelling and encouraging the crowd, while in front of the jail he was shoving to get on the steps and while at the first hanging had the rope in his hand as the Negro's body was lying on the ground. He was also seen pulling on the other end of the rope while the Negro was hanged.

* * *

WILLIAM P. HEARN.

Occupation—Contract hauler by truck.

Address—Salisbury, Maryland.

Positively identified by Sergeant Weber, Corporal Norris. It is believed that he can be identified also by some of the following officers, that is, Corporal Norris, Sergeant Spioch, Officer Miller, Corporal Falkenstein and Officer Schleuter. He was seen by Officers Weber and Serman shoving, yelling and pushing in front of the jail and attempting to get on the steps and shoving the policemen off. If identified by the other officers beforementioned, he will be placed before the jail attacking the officers, agitating and directing the crowd and he may be the man who threw the rope over the tree at the first hanging.

* * *

IRVING ADKINS.

Occupation—Track foreman for the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Address—Oretta, which is the first station from Princess Anne where the old road crosses the new road on the way to Salisbury.

Adkins was positively identified by Sergeant Dryden and Lieutenant Ridgely. Sergeant Dryden has known Adkins for some years and he pointed him out to Lieutenant Ridgely at the time he first noticed him in front of the hotel. It is almost certain that Adkins will also be identified by several of the following officers: Randall, Serman, Durham, Weber and Schleuter. Adkins was seen by Officer Dryden in front of the hotel when the crowd was gathering. He was the leader of this crowd and is the one who yelled "Let's go!" and led the crowd to the jail. He was subsequently seen by Lieutenant Ridgely at the south side of the jail and at the northeast intersection when Judge Duer made his speech. On both of these occasions he was yelling, "Come on, follow me; they won't shoot!" and was leading or attempting to lead the crowd. It is believed that he is one of the men who had a hold of the ram at the jail which hit Officer Serman, and that he will be recognized as one of the first leaders of the crowd at the northeast intersection by Officer Durham, as well as a leader in front of the jail by Sergeant Weber. Positive identification by Officers Randall, Serman, Durham, Weber and Bohler depends upon obtaining either a picture or seeing Adkins.

* * *

WILLIAM H. THOMPSON.

Occupation—Unknown.

Address—Princess Anne, Md.

Was picked out by Officers Bradley and Quandt as the seventh man on the coroner's jury from a photograph of the coroner's jury. He was in front of the jail pushing against the police line, yelling to the crowd to get a pole and had a hold of the ram when it crashed the jail door.

* * *

JACK WALLOPER.

Full name is known as Jack Walloper, but his real name is reported to be Jack Sterling or Jackson Sterling or Randolph Sterling.

Occupation—Unknown.

Address—Crisfield, Md.

Officer Wheeler has known him for some time and positively identified him as pulling on the rope at the second hanging. It is possible that he may be identified by Officers Wheeler, Cubbage and Sergeant Weber upon being seen by them. If he is identified by Officers Wheeler, Cubbage and Sergeant Weber, he will be in the crowd in front of the jail at the Deals Island intersection and at the first hanging, at all of which places he was a leader.

SHELBUR[illegible]ER.

Occupation—Meterman for the Eastern Shore Public Service Company.

Address—Salisbury, Md.

Is identified by Officer Bradley before the jail where he was yelling, going into the place and in the front of the mob. He is supposed to be the man who hit Captain Johnson.

• • •

BIG BOY SMITH.

Occupation—Prizefighter.

Address—Salisbury, Md.

Is known as Big Boy Smith fights under this name and is registered in the State Athletic Commission under this name Smith is identified by Officer Durham, who recognized him and knew him, having seen him fight at Laurel. Is also recognized by Officer Bohler, who recognized the photograph of Smith when he was shown the same. Smith was in the front of the crowd at the northeast intersection on the north side of the jail, pushing against the police line. He was later seen by the side of the jail with a brick in his hand, which he refused to drop at the command of Officer Bohler.

• • •

MARTIN DUER.

Occupation—Unknown.

Address—Pocomoke or Snow Hill.

There are three Duers in Pocomoke and Salisbury and it is impossible to know which Duer this is. A boy giving his name as Martin Duer can be identified at the first hanging with the rope in his hand while the Negro's body was on the ground with the rope at the first hanging, by Lieutenant Ridgely, Sergeant Weber, Officers Schleuter, Langrall, Kuhn and possibly Corporal Wheeler. He was at the hanging holding the rope and by Officer Schleuter was seen pulling the rope.

BALTIMORE, MD.
MORNING SUN
FEB 24 193[illegible]

PAY REFUSED FOR LYNCHING SUSPECTS' CARE

Reckord Returns Board And Transportation Bill To Warden

CONTENDS COURT ORDERED TRANSFER

Jail Group Decides To Refer Issue To Attorney-General

Refused payment in full of a bill of $67.15 by Brig.-Gen. Milton A. Reckord, Adjutant-General of Maryland, for boarding and transporting four alleged suspects in the lynching of George Armwood, Negro, at Princess Anne, Somerset county, last fall, the Jail Board last night agreed to refer the matter to the Attorney-General for adjudication.

The alleged suspects were Irving Atkins, William S. McQuade, William P. Hearn and William H. Thompson, all of Somerset county.

Other Charges Listed

Early this month Harry A. Martin sent to General Reckord a bill for 85 cents for each man for boarding and food for the day of November 28-29. Added to this was a transporation charge from the city jail to Princess Anne of $42.35 when the men were taken there by Mr. Martin and a jail guard to answer a haebus corpus writ.

There also was a charge of $8.40 for crossing from Annapolis to Claiborne on the ferry, a charge of $6 for eight lunches—the guards, prisoners and two chauffeurs—a charge of $3 for four suppers and the salary for one day of the guard, $4.

Advanced Own Funds

Mr. Martin asked General Reckord to make remittance in two checks, one for $17.40 for expense money advanced by him personally and one for $49.75 made payable to the Jail Board. The transportation charge for two automobiles was billed to the Jail Board by the Municipal Bureau of Transportation.

Under the date of February 12 J. M. Griffith, secretary to General Reckord returned the bill to Mr. Martin with a letter that said in part:

"The Adjutant-General does not feel that this department is responsible for any part of the statement other than the cost of meals furnished by you. This, in view of the fact that the removal of the prisoners was by order of the court and not by his authority or order."

Says Reckord Made Offer

When asked for an explanation by Cleveland R. Bealmear, president of the Jail Board, the warden, rising at his desk said:

"On the morning the men were taken out of jail, General Rockord stood right here in front of me. I asked 'Who is going to pay the bill for taking the men back?' and he answered 'Send the bill to me. I will pay it.' Therefore, following his own explicit directiosn I forwarded the bill to him.

"The militia brought the prisoners here from Princess Anne. When the writ arrived and I, according to law, had to deliver them in the jurisdiction of the court, General Reckord told me here in my office that he would furnish protection for me if I wanted it. I told him it was not needed. The whole time the prisoners were here they were the prisoners of the militia and not of the courts."

Subcommittee To Decide On Offer By Thompson

[Washington Bureau of The Sun]

Washington, Feb. 23—Whether the offer of William H. Thompson, Princess Anne (Md.) druggist, to answer the accusations made against him by W. Preston Lane, Jr., Maryland Attorney General, in connection with the lynching of George Armwood last October, will be acccepted will depend upon a decision of the Senate subcommittee in charge of the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill, Senator Van Nuys (Dem., Ind.), chairman of that committee, said tonight.

Senator Van Nuys received Thompson's offer by wire today. Tonight, he said, he telegraphed the druggist, advising him that his wire would be placed before the subcommittee when it meets next week.

Testifying before the committee on Wednesday, Mr. Lane named Thompson as one of the alleged leaders of the mob which lynched Armwood. Thompson offered to come to Washington at his own expense and without summons "to deny the false and libelous statements given you by Attorney-General Lane."

NEWS
Princess Anne - Md.
FEB 24 193[illegible]

SENATE INVESTIGATES LYNCHING

Attorney General Lane Places Shore Lynching Data Before Legislative Committee

The names of the eight men said to have been recognized by State police officers as participants in the lynching of George Armwood here last October, were presented last Wednesday in Washington to aUnited States sub-committee by W. Preston Lane, Jr., of Maryland.

Mr. Lane said the men identified were:

Shelburn Lester, meterman Public Service Company of Salisbury, Md.; "Big Boy" Smith, Salisbury, pugilist; William P. Hearn, Salisbury truckman; Irving Adkins, Loretto; William H. Thompson, Princess Anne; Jack Walloper, Crisfield; Martin Duer, Pocomoke or Snow Hill, and "Rusty" Heath, former jailer of Salisbury.

Of these, Thompson, Adkins and Hearn were three of the four arrested, but released when the grand jury did not indict them.

Lane gave the committee his complete records in the case, including correspondence he had with the Somerset county State's Attorney, Mr. John B. Robins.

He was the principal witness at the hearing on the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill ,which would impose a fine of $10,000 on a county in which a lynching occurred, to be paid to the family of the victim, and transfer to the Federal courts prosecution of lynchers and negligent public authorities.

At the request of the committee, Lane reviewed briefly the case of Euel Lee, Maryland Negro who after a long legal fight was hanged for the murder of a Maryland family on the Maryland Eastern Shore.

Asked if there was any connection between the Lee case and the Armwood lynching, he said Lee's name was mentioned by members of the mob as they took Armwood from the jail at Princess Anne.

Attorney Lane read into the committee's record the full account of the statements made by the Maryland State Police officers as to the men they identified in the mob which stormed the Princess Anne jail. These statements had never before been made public.

Lynchings-1934
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Force Chain Store To Fire Manager Who Helped To Lynch George Armwood

Planet 1-6-34

Baltimore, Md.—Militant action by the International Labor Defense and the League of Struggle for Negro Rights here and in Philadelphia has forced a chain store corporation to fire the manager of its store in Pocomoke City on the Eastern Shore, because of his participation in the lynching of George Armwood.

The lyncher is William C. McQuade, who was also one of the four men arrested by militia on order of Attorney General W. Preston Lane and quickly released by Lane and Judge Duer of Salisbury. He was manager of the American Stores Company store in Pocomoke City, one of a chain of 62 the corporation operates on the Eastern Shore.

Delegations from the I. L. D. and the L. S. N. R. called on the personnel manager in Baltimore, and when he referred the matter to the head office in Philadelphia, a delegation was organized there to make the same demand—that this lyncher be fired.

As a result McQuade was fired December 24.

Richmond Va

Md. Grand Jury Fails To Indict Lynchers

Constitution 1-26-34
Atlanta Ga

PRINCESS ANNE, Md., Jan. 25. (AP)—The Somerset county grand jury brought its special session to a close late today without finding a true bill in the lynching of George Armwood, a negro.

With the failure to find sufficient evidence in the Armwood case, another chapter in the lynching came to a close. Armwood was taken from the Princess Anne jail on the night of October 18 by a mob that overpowered 20 state police and was hanged and later burned. A coroner's jury which investigated was unable to hold any persons as being responsible.

Forty-two witnesses were summoned by the grand jury during its investigation of the lynching. Twenty of these witnesses were state policemen.

LYNCHING PROBE IN MARYLAND CLOSED

News

No Indictments Returned By Somerset Grand Jury In Negro's Death

1-27-34
Birmingham Ala

PRINCESS ANNE, Md.—(AP)—Somerset County had written "closed" across its investigation into the lynching here Oct. 18 of George Armwood, a Negro accused of attacking an aged white woman.

The Grand Jury, concluding its special session late Thursday returned nine indictments, but none of them concerned the lynching case, although the inquiry body had earlier in the week summoned 42 witnesses who had been identified with the case.

The indictments concerned three recent murders, in which the jury presented formal charges against two Negroes and a white man. The remainder were for lesser crimes.

Sam Jones, Negro, was charged with the slaying of Mrs. Margaret Brumbley, elderly farm woman, whose body was found by her husband when he returned to their Marion Station home early New Year's morning.

Earle Collins, Virginia oyster shucker, was charged with the murder of Mrs. Norris Taylor whom he is alleged to have shot to death at her father's store in Crisfield early in December.

The third murder indictment was against George Maddox, Negro, for the killing of Woodrow Wilson, another Negro.

The Armwood lynching case had been seething more than three months, causing in November a clash between county and state authorities over the method to be used in bringing into court the alleged members of the mob of more than 1,000 persons who broke into the local jail and dragged away the Negro to hang him near the town's limits.

While State's Attorney Robins declared the evidence should be submitted to the Grand Jury, Atty. Gen. Lane asked for the immediate arrest of the suspects, who had been identified to him. When the county officials declined to act, Gov. Ritchie sent national guardsmen here, who apprehended four suspects. These were released shortly on habeas corpus writs.

In discharging the Grand Jury Thursday Judge Duer said "the court wishes to thank you for the diligence you have shown in the performance of your duty."

BALTIMORE, MD.
MORNING SUN
MAR 17 1934

LYNCH HEARING BID DECLINED BY DUER

Bailey Also Claims Court Duties Bar Him From Part In Senate Discussion

THOMPSON TESTIFIES

Shore Druggist Claims He Was At Movies With Wife, Not In Princess Anne With Mob

By DEWEY L. FLEMING
[*Washington Bureau of The Sun*]

Washington, March 16—Judge Robert F. Duer, of the First Maryland Judicial Circuit, and Lewin C. Bailey, State's Attorney for Wicomico county, Maryland, today declined invitations to appear before the Senate subcommittee now studying the Wagner-Costigan Federal anti-lynching bill. They said court duties prevented them from taking part in the hearings at this time.

The subcommittee had a willing witness, however, in William Thompson, Princess Anne druggist, who came at his own request to deny charges of Maryland State officials that he was a member of the mob which lynched George Armwood, Negro, in that town last October.

Mr. Thompson was one of eight men named to the committee on February 21 by W. Preston Lane, Maryland Attorney-General, as having been identified positively as a member and leader of the crowd which stormed the Princess Anne jail and lynched Armwood.

"Innocent" In Lynching

With four witnesses to testify in person in his behalf, and a sheaf of letters and affidavits produced for the same purpose, Mr. Thompson swore to the investigators that he was not in Princess Anne at the time of the lynching, and was "innocent of any charge pertaining to the lynching of George Armwood."

"I was not in Princess Anne at the time of the lynching," the witness asserted, "and I have witnesses and affidavits to prove it. I was in Salisbury attending a motion-picture show."

Four Witnesses Appear

The druggist's witnesses were his wife, Mrs. Lillian Thompson, who said she accompanied him to the show at Salisbury; George Colborn, Salisbury druggist, who testified to speaking with Thompson in his Salisbury store at about the hour the lynching was taking place fourteen miles distant; and Mrs. Lee Hayman and Mrs. Earl Morris, who said they met the Thompsons returning to Princess Anne from Salisbury after the lynching was over.

Mr. Thompson told the committee he "welcomed" this his "first opportunity to state my side of the case." In common with his supporting witnesses he submitted to long cross-examination following his direct statement.

Lynch Bill Discussed

After the Marylanders had been heard the subcommittee, headed by Senator Van Nuys (Dem., Ind.), listened to a discussion of the constitutionality of the pending bill by Representative Sumners (Dem., Texas), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and an opponent of the bill.

With this testimony the committee expected to close hearings on the measure, which would provide severe Federal penalties for local negligence in lynching crimes and would provide Federal machinery for the handling of such cases where local authority broke down.

Mr. Bailey, the Wicomico county State's Attorney, wrote that a current term of court in Salisbury prevented his appearance in Washington today, but expressed willingness to come at some future date if the committee desired. Judge Duer wrote that the same term of court would make it impossible for him to accept "your cordial invitation, should I wish to do so."

In Salisbury, He Claims

Mr. Thompson, a short, thick-set man, told the committee this was the first opportunity he had had to state his side of the case, and before beginning his statement he handed to Senator Van Nuys several letters from citizens of the Princess Anne community relative to his reputation and standing in that section. Later he filed a number of affidavits of persons attesting to his presence in Salisbury at the time the lynching was taking place.

"I am innocent of any charge pertaining to the lynching of George Armwood," he began, responding to a suggestion that he make a statement in his own way.

"I was not in Princess Anne at the time. I was in Salisbury attending a motion picture show."

Served On Jury

To this the witness added only that he had served on the coroner's jury which investigated the crime; that he did not know the two State police officers who professed to identify him as one of the leaders of the mob, and that he believed they based their identification merely on his likeness as it appeared in a photograph of the coroner's jury.

Here Senator Van Nuys began the long examination of the witness, which subsequently was carried on by Senator McCarran.

"Where you in Princess Anne on the night of the lynching?" the chairman asked.

Returned To Princess Anne

"Yes, after it was over," Mr. Thompson replied.

"What time did the lynching occur?"

"About 9.30 o'clock, I believe."

"Where were you at that time?"

"In Salisbury, probably leaving the picture theater."

The witness then explained that he and his wife left Princess Anne by automobile shortly before 7 o'clock to attend the show in Salisbury. They got back to Princess Anne about 9.45 o'clock, he said, and were stopped near the Washington Hotel by the dense throng in the street.

Places Crowd At 1,000

Thompson estimated the crowd at 1,000 persons and said the scene resembled one where a speech was being made. He decided to try to reach his store on foot, and told Mrs. Thompson to go on home in their car. On his way to the store he learned what had taken place, he testified, but saw only one whom he recognized.

The witness said he remained at his store until it closed about 11 P. M., and did not see Armwood's body until the next morning when the coroner's jury viewed it.

"Were you summoned before a grand jury?" asked Senator Van Nuys.

"I was taken to Baltimore," Thompson replied.

"But you went before no local magistrate or other official?"

"No. On November 27 or 28 National Guardsmen came down to arrest lynch suspects. They took me out of bed about 3 o'clock in the morning and took me to Baltimore."

"Have you testified anywhere before on this subject?"

"No, sir; this is my first opportunity."

Thompson A Rotarian

Senator McCarran questioned the witness about his position in the Princess Anne community. Thompson, it was brought out, was a member of the Rotary Club, active in civic affairs and had conducted his drug business there for more than seven years. He had a large acquaintanceship.

"Why did you go to movies at such a remote point?" asked the Nevada Senator.

"Because they are better than the ones in our town, and because there was one that night that my wife particularly wanted to see."

"What was that picture?" came the next question.

"I can't recall now. I've had too much to remember."

Bought Soft Drink

It was at this point that the witness told of stopping in the Salisbury drug store after the picture show to get a soft drink and of saying "hello" to the proprietor, Mr. Colborn.

Senator McCarran's further questioning brought an admission from Thompson that there had been "rumblings of some activity" on the day before the lynching, occasioned by the return of Armwood to the Princess Anne jail under heavy police escort.

"Didn't it strike you that somebody was apprehensive of violence, and that that was why they had all those police?"

"Well, yes," said Thompson.

"So there was a feeling that there might be trouble?"

"Not in our town; no."

Senator Van Nuys took the witness again to press further into the matter of the coroner's investigation.

"Was anyone else on that jury alleged to have taken part in the lynching?"

"Not that I know of."

"How long did the investigation last?"

"I don't just remember."

"Well, did it last two or three hours a week, or just how long?"

"Oh, not more than an hour, I should say."

"How many witnesses were there?"

"I don't remember."

"Didn't you have any?"

"I don't remember."

"What was the verdict?"

Agreed Man Has Lynched

"That a man had been lynched."

"How did you arrive at that verdict without evidence?"

"I'm not sure that was the exact language of the verdict, but it was known all over the United States that a man had been lynched."

"Did you take any ballots on it?"

"There was a doctor there who said death was due to a hemorrhage or strangulation."

"Did you try to fix responsibility?"

"Yes."

"How? You didn't have any evidence."

"I want to change that. Later we did have some witnesses—the State's Attorney, the prisoners in the jail and others."

"Did any of the witnesses pretend to identify any members of the mob?"

"No, sir."

Found Out Man Was Dead

"About all you found out was that a man was dead?"

"Yes."

"And that was about all of your effort?"

"Yes."

"Do you think it would be possible in your community to identify and prosecute the leaders of that mob?"

"I don't know; they didn't."

"No, they didn't," Senator Van Nuys agreed.

"In extreme cases of this kind," asked Senator McCarran, "where a colored man assaults a white woman, do you believe in lynching?"

"No, sir," answered Thompson; "I believe in the law taking its course."

Wife Testifies

Mrs. Thompson followed her husband to the witness stand and corroborated his recital of the trip to Salisbury on the evening of the lynching.

She first heard of the lynching, she testified, when they reached Princess Anne and were stopped by the crowd at the Washington Hotel. A State policeman, she said, told her what had taken place and told her she would be unable to drive her car home until the crowd dispersed. She would "just have to wait," she said she was told. Her husband, meanwhile, had proceeded to his store on foot.

"What was the picture you saw that night?" asked Senator Van Nuys.

"I can't remember," answered Mrs. Thompson.

The witness said she and her husband were in the habit of going to the Salisbury theater about one night a week.

Asked if she had seen any indications of a lynching before she left for Salisbury, Mrs. Thompson replied:

"No, the town was dead. There weren't more than about three people on the street."

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6

Maryland

BALTIMORE, MD.
POST
FEB 21 1934

4637

LANE TELLS INSIDE STORY OF LYNCHING

NAMES NINE SUSPECTS AT SENATE QUIZ

U. S. to Summon Eight on Evidence Bared by Maryland Attorney General

GIVES POLICE TESTIMONY

Eye-Witness Accounts of Armwood Slaying Entered Into Probers' Record

By LOUIS AZRAEL
Baltimore Post Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21. — At least eight residents of Somerset County, Md., accused today before a Senate investigating committee by Attorney General William Preston Lane Jr. of participating in the George Armwood lynching on Oct. 18 at Princess Anne, will be summoned to Washington to tell their [illegible].

Subpoenas were to be issued late [illegible].

Makes Evidence Public

For the first time, Lane today made public the evidence he obtained on the Eastern Shore, the evidence which led to the troop movement to Salisbury last December.

Reading from his files, Lane [illegible] statements which [illegible] had [illegible] accused [illegible]

He named one as the leader of the crowd which participated in the lynching. His testimony as to him was:

"He was positively identified by Sergeant Dryden and Lieutenant Ridgely. Sergeant Dryden has known the man for some years, and he pointed him out to Lieutenant Ridgely at the time he first noticed him in front of the hotel at Princess Anne.

"He was seen by Officer Dryden in front of the hotel when the crowd was gathering. He was the leader of this crowd, and is the one who yelled, 'Let's go,' and led the crowd to the jail. He was subsequently seen by Lieutenant Ridgely on the outside of the jail and was at the northeast intersection when Judge Duer made his speech. On both of these occasions he was yelling, 'Come on, follow me! They won't shoot!' and was leading or attempting to lead the crowd. It is believed that he is one of the men who had hold of the ram at the jail which hit Officer Serman."

The testimony as to another was:

"He is well known by sight to many of the force who were present on the night of the lynching. He was positively identified by Officers Bradley, Serman, Schlueter and Durham and other officers. He was seen in front of the hotel at the Deals Island Road intersection beyond the jail, at the tree where the Negro was first hanged and near Judge Duer's car as he made his speech.

Seen on End of Rope

"He was drunk, was in front of the crowd, shoving, yelling and encouraging the crowd. While in front of the jail he was shoving to get on the steps, and at the first hanging had the rope in his hand as the Negro's body [illegible] the ground. He was also [illegible] on the other end of [illegible] while the Negro was hanging."

Lane presented the following testimony against a Salisbury man:

"He was positively identified by Sergeant Weber and Corporal Norris. He was seen by Officers Weber and Serman shoving, yelling and [illegible] in front of the jail and attempting to get on the steps and shoving the policemen off.

"He may be the man who threw the rope over the tree at the first hanging."

As to a Princess Anne resident, Lane testified:

"He was picked out by Officers Bradley and Quandt as the seventh man on the coroner's jury from a photograph of the coroner's jury. He was in front of the jail pushing against the police lines, yelling for the crowd to get a pole, and he had hold of the ram when it smashed the jail doors."

Lane then testified against another suspect. He testified that "Officer Wheeler had known him for some time, and positively identified him as pulling the rope at the second hanging."

'Man Who Hit Johnson'

As to another Salisbury resident, Lane testified:

"He was identified by Officer Bradley in front of the jail. Lester was yelling, going into the police and in front of the mob. He is supposed to be the man who hit Captain Johnson."

Lane's next testimony was against a prize fighter, registered with the State Athletic Commission under the name Lane gave. Lane testified:

"He was identified by Officer Durham, who recognized him and knew him and had seen him fight at Laurel. He was also recognized by Officer Bohler, who recognized photographs when he was shown them. He was in front of the crowd at the northeast intersection on the north side of the jail, pushing against the police lines. He was later see by the side of the jail with a brick in his hand, which he refused to drop at the command of Officer Bohler."

'Martin Duer' Named

Lane's next testimony concerned a man, whose identity Lane admitted to be vague.

"There are three men by the same name in Pocomoke and Salisbury," Lane said, "and it is impossible to know which this is. A boy giving this name can be identified at the first hanging with the rope in his hand while the Negro's body was on the ground."

Attorney General Lane was still on the witness stand when the Van Nuys sub-committee reconvened this afternoon. G. C. A. Anderson, his assistant, sat beside him.

To the insistence of committee senators that he give his legal views on the Wagner-Costigan bill, Lane replied that he was unprepared. Lane also refused to give his opinion as to whether federal anti-lynching legislation is advisable.

"Any kind of legislation that will restrain mob action is desirable," Lane said. "But I am not ready to say that it should be federal instead of state legislation."

Adequate Police Protection

"More adequate police protection," was advocated by Lane, who said he referred to the need of enlarging state police forces, and not larger local police units.

"Local officers are elected and more amenable to local sentiment," he said.

Lane turned over to the committee additional statements made by state police officers, further identifying the alleged mob leaders.

In this document were statements by Corp. N. G. Falkenstine, Sergt. William Weber, Corp. J. F. Norris, Corp. J. E. Wheeler, Officers C. B. Durham, E. R. Quandt, C. C. Serman, R. H. Tower, M. T. Bahler, J. R. Miller and J. M. Bradley.

Senator Dieterich asked Lane to review the Euel Lee case. Lane traced the developments of the case from the date of the murders through the various trials and appeals, and up to hanging of the prisoner.

"Was there any connection between that case and the lynching?" asked Dieterich.

'Matter of Sentiment'

"Not except in the matter of sentiment," said Lane. "Members of the mob mentioned the Lee case on the night of the lynching."

After discussing failure of the Princess Anne grand jury to indict the alleged lynchers, Senator Van Nuys asked:

"Do you have any information as to whether that grand jury proceeding was perfunctory or bona fide?"

"I do not," said Lane.

"Is it not true," asked Van Nuys, "that local prosecutors are just about as efficient and militant as public opinion demands?"

"I think some officers are more so," said Lane.

Eulogizes Lane

At this point, Senator Van Nuys eulogized Lane for the aggressiveness the attorney general had shown in trying to bring the Armwood lynchers to trial. The spectators applauded.

Simon E. Sobeloff, U. S. attorney for Maryland, followed Lane. Sobeloff explained to the committee why he did not attempt to interfere in the Princess Anne affair. He said that under existing federal laws the federal government had no power to intervene.

The Wagner-Costigan bill, Sobeloff said, has many features of doubtful constitutionality.

"But I think a good enough case can be made out for it to justify your committee in making a favorable report," he added.

Lane's Documents

The documents produced by Lane included:

Correspondence between Lane and State's Attorney Robins, of Somerset County, in which Lane outlined the evidence and demanded action, and Robins revealed his reluctance to proceed in the face of local sentiment.

Names of the witnesses that Lane suggested that Robins should call before a grand jury.

Names of nine men who Lane advised Robins there was sufficient evidence to secure an indictment.

County officials at Princess Anne deliberately exposed Armwood to the danger of lynching, was the charge made by the Rev. Dr. Asbury Smith, of Baltimore, today's first witness.

State troopers, he said, failed to take proper precautions against mob action.

"The calling out of the national guard was good publicity for our state and our Governor," said Rev. Dr. Smith, "but when the bayonets of the soldiers were overpowered by he brickbats of the mob nothin was accomplished to bring justic to the lynchers."

The leading citizens of the Eastern Shore, he said, not only condone but also applaud and revel i lynching.

Eye-Witness Account

An eye-witness account of th Armwood lynching is scheduled t be given by Jack Kavanagh, reporte for The Baltimore Post, who was i Princess Anne at the time.

One of the chief items of disput in the bill is the provision requiring a county in which a lynchin occurs to pay $10,000 damages t the family of the victim.

Senator Dietrich, of Illinois, ask each advocate of this provision wh it is necessary to "impose a penalt on innocent taxpayers." Senato McCarran, of Nevada, questions th constitutionality of the present bil But both senators indicate tha they are in favor of a federal anti lynching law.

Proponents of the $10,000 fin argue that such a fine may provok the responsible taxpaying citizens o a community into active resistanc against a lynching mob.

The bill also provides a penalt of five years and a $5,000 fine fo a local officer who fails to exercis due diligence in protecting prisoner from a mob, and from five years t life for a local officer who conspire with or abets a mob.

Arguments that the lynching problem should be left to the states hav been vigorously attacked by witnesses at the hearing. They quote statistics which showed that lynchers have been convicted by states i less than one percent of the case They also testified that less tha one-sixth of the lynchings ar prompted by sex crimes.

Baltimoreans Leave for U. S. Senate Lynch Hearing

Simon E. Sobeloff   Rabbi Edward L. Israel

John Kavanagh   Louis Azrael   Dr. J. O. Spencer

Seeking enactment of a federal anti-lynch law, a group of Baltimoreans went to Washington today to appear before the Senate sub-committee headed by Senator Van Nuys, which is holding hearings in the capital on the proposed bill. A long list of educators, government officials, racial leaders, and publicists have either been called or have asked to appear before the committee. Marylanders are furnishing a great deal of the testimony about the lynching of George Armwood, Negro, at Princess Anne last fall and the subsequent failure of authorities to take action against suspects. Photo shows several Baltimore witnesses leaving Mt. Royal Station to appear before the committee today. Mr. Kavanagh, Baltimore Post reporter, was an eye-witness of the lynching. Mr. Sobeloff is U. S. district attorney here. Mr. Azrael, The Baltimore Post columnist; Dr. Israel represents the Maryland Anti-Lynching Federation, and Dr. Spencer is president of Morgan College.

Lynchings-1934

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Maryland

4638

BALTIMORE, MD.
EVE. SUN
MAR 16 [illegible]

DRUGGIST DENIES TAKING PART IN SHORE LYNCHING

Thompson Tells Senators He Was In Salisbury Movie At Time

Washington, March 16 (AP)—Representative Hatton W. Sumners (Dem., Texas), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said today the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill would retard rather than promote the suppression of lynching in the United States. Senator Edward P. Costigan (Dem., Col.) read a letter sent to him by Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Holmes, parents of Jack Holmes, lynched by a mob at San Jose, Cal., last November. The letter said that the lynching was committed by youths whom police officers had "filled full of whisky." The parents said they could have proved the innocence of their son.

By Frederick R. Barkley

Washington, March 16—William H. Thompson, Princess Anne druggist accused of a part in the lynching of George Armwood in that town some months ago, today appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill to deny any part in the affair.

Thompson was one of a group named to the subcommittee three weeks ago by W. Preston Lane, Maryland Attorney-General, as having been identified as members of the lynching mob.

Wires Committee

Thompson then wired the subcommittee a request that he might appear. He came today at the committee's invitation, accompanied by his wife and three other alibi witnesses, George W. Colborn, Mrs. Lee Hayman and Mrs. Earl Morse.

Judge Robert F. Duer, Levin C. Bailey, Salisbury county prosecutor and John F. Robins, Princess Anne prosecutor, who also were invited, failed to appear.

State Senator L. Creston Beauchamp of Somerset county said that official business prevented Judge Duer, Bailey and Robins from appearing.

"I am thankful for this opportunity to state my side," Thompson said as he appeared before the subcommittee. "It is the first opportunity I have had to do so."

Reads Scores Of Letters

Thompson then read scores of letters "from respectable men of the community" attesting to his good character.

"I am innocent of any charge pertaining to the lynching of George Armwood," Thompson said. "I was not in town that night—I can prove with witnesses that I was in Salisbury at a moving picture."

When he and his wife drove home he said, he found the streets crowded with cars and was unable to get within a block of his store. Accordingly he told his wife to drive home and went to the store on foot.

Saw But One He Knew

On this walk, he said, he saw only one man he knew in the crowd of about a thousand people.

Senator Frederich H. Van Nuys (Dem., Ind.), subcommittee chairman then read the "positive identification" of Thompson made by State Policeman J. M. Bradly. It stated that he had seen Thompson, dressed in a knee-length black leather coat, in the forefront of the mob and later getting the ram with which the jail door was battered down.

"I had on the suit (a blue serge) I have on now," Thompson commented, "and I never owned a black leather coat in my life."

Thompson added that neither of the two policemen who identified him knew him, whereas several policemen present that night who did know him, he said, had failed to mention him as a member of the mob.

Denies Knowledge

"Well, there was a lynching," said Senator Van Nuys," and nobody was ever tried. You are a business man in that community. Isn't it common knowledge who did it?"

"No, it is not," Thompson replied.

"Was there ever any attempt to apprehend anyone?"

"Well, they sent the army down and dragged me out of my bed at 3 o'clock in the morning and took me to Baltimore."

"What is your opinion of this bill?"

"I'm not competent to say," Thompson replied. "People can get into our community from Virginia in a car in twenty minutes and it would seem unfair to me to penalize a community with a big fine for something people from other places did."

Might Have Helped

"Well, if there had been a unanimous sentiment against lynching in your town, wouldn't it have helped to prevent this affair?"

"Yes, it would probably have put people on notice to try to stop it. It was the first lynching I was ever near and it cost me a lot of money and trouble."

"The policeman who said he identified me reported that my business was unknown," Thompson said. "Yet I've been a druggist in Princess Anne for seven years and have lived there all my life except for two years in the World War and six years in Baltimore."

The witness added that there were only two drug stores in the town and that its population is only 980.

Can't Remember Film

"How did you come to go to Salisbury to see a picture that night?" asked Senator Patrick H. McCarren (Dem., Nev.). "Is there no picture house in Princess Anne?"

Thompson said there is, but that his wife wanted to see the picture showing in Salisbury. He could not recall the name of the picture nor could Mrs. Thompson when she was called later.

The druggist then went over his activities of the lynching night in more detail. He and his wife left Princess Anne about 7 P. M., he said, to make the 7.20 picture. The drive takes about twenty-five minutes.

Went To Get Soda

"When we got there," he continued, "we went into a drug store to get a soda, and Mr. Colborn, the proprietor, is here to testify that he saw me and spoke to me."

Arriving back in Princess Anne after the picture show, Thompson said, he saw a crowd of about 1,000 in the streets, but asserted he did not ask anyone what had caused it to collect.

"I was interested in my store," he explained, "because I had left it in charge of two girls."

He added that he knew that Armwood had been returned from Baltimore because he saw about twenty-five State policemen in town on motorcycles and learned they had escorted the prisoner.

"Didn't that indicate that violence was feared?" asked Senator McCarran.

"Yes."

Denies General Feeling

"So there was a general feeling that trouble threatened?"

"Not in our town."

"Did you ever express yourself as to what should be done?"

"Yes, I told a man that night in Salisbury that he should be given a trial, and I have that man's affidavit. He spoke of the delay in convicting Euel Lee, who killed four people, and said I thought the trial would be speedy and that justice would be done."

Thompson said he first saw Armwood's body the next morning in a lot near the jail where he went as a member of the coroner's jury. It was a picture taken of the jury, he said, which later led Bradley to identify him as a mob member.

Heard No Witnesses

"How many witnesses did the jury hear?" asked Senator Van Huys.

"I don't remember any."

"What was your verdict?"

"Just that he had been lynched."

"Without any evidence?"

"Well, I'd never been on a jury before," Thompson said.

"Didn't you try to fix responsibility?"

Thompson then recalled that the jury did not give a verdict the first day after the lynching, but that it was rendered some days later after hearing the State's Attorney, some prisoners, the Sheriff and deputy sheriffs and others.

"And was anyone identified as a member of the mob?"

"No, nobody could identify anybody."

"Well, it appears," said Van Nuys, "that about all you found out was that the man was dead. Was that the sum total of your efforts?"

"Yes, sir."

"Don't you think more could have been done?"

"I don't know; we didn't do any more."

Reiterates Thanks

Thompson reiterated his thanks to the committee for permitting him to testify, asserting that it was "the first chance I have had to clear my name after it has been in all the papers all over the United States."

Mrs. Thompson, called next, elaborated on several aspects of her husband's story. She said they came out of the Salisbury picture house at 9.15 went to a drug store and had a drink and got home about 9.45, after the lynching was over, running into a crowd of cars which caused her husband to get out and direct her to drive home.

Before leaving Salisbury, she recalled, a Mr. de Shield, a telephone man, "asked us if anything was going on in Princess Anne, because he heard about a lynching and that a lot of people had driven over from Salisbury."

"All Quiet," She Says

"Mr. Thompson said no, that it was all quiet when we left there," she added, "and that he was sure there wasn't going to be one."

"You knew a lynching had taken place then when you got home?" asked Senator Van Nuys.

"No, but we saw a lot of cars going back to Salisbury, and when I got in front of the hotel in Princess Anne I asked two State policemen what was going on and they told me. I wanted to get home to my baby, but they said I could not get around the back street the way my husband told me to go, because it was crowded, too."

"You had heard before you left that a lynching was planned?"

"No, when we left there were only about three people on the street—the town was dead. We didn't meet any cars coming from Salisbury to Princess Anne and we couldn't see the jail when we drove out of town."

Went To Store

Mrs. Thompson then said she went to her husband's store after the crowd cleared away, stayed there a while and then went home alone. Her husband, she said, closed the store that night about 11 o'clock, although he usually closed at 10 or 10.30.

Asked about the temper of the crowd, Mrs. Thompson said those she saw in the drug store "seemed surprised and shocked."

"Were they all strangers?"

"Yes, all total strangers."

"You saw no local business men?"

"No."

No Discussion

"Was there any discussion as to who were the mob leaders?"

"No."

"Why, don't they still discuss it?"

"Not to me, they know I've heard too much about it."

Mrs. Lee Hayman, whose husband runs a hardware store in Princess Anne, said she saw Mrs. Thompson in front of the hotel about a block from the drug store the night of the lynching.

Very Excited

"I saw Mr. Thompson get out of the car, and I spoke to him," Mrs. Hayman said. "He didn't speak, but started up the street toward his store. Mrs. Thompson said they had just come back from Salisbury and was very excited and wanted to know what in the world had happened, so I told her."

Mrs. Hayman said she and her husband had left their house about a block from the jail at 8 P. M. because they saw crowds gathering about the jail. They stood together on a platform in front of the store until 9 o'clock, she said.

She added that she recognized no one.

"Why was that?" asked Senator Van Nuys.

"Well, I suppose because all those people came from out of town."

Kept Across Street

As they went to the store, Mrs. Hayman said, she and her husband kept on the opposite side of the street from the crowd. She said that before leaving home she and her husband agreed there was going to be trouble.

"You thought there would be a lynching?"

"No, I never gave it a thought."

"Did you ever talk over your testimony with anyone?" asked Senator Van Nuys.

"No."

"Not with your husband?"

"No."

From in front of their store, the witness said, she could hear "faint sounds" at the jail two blocks away and later saw crowds in the street.

"They were not hilarious," she said. She added that all she knew about the lynching was that the body was dragged up the street from the jail and back to the front of the courthouse. She knew when it was over because the crowds started to disperse.

Mrs. Earl Morris, who runs the Princess Anne Movie house with her husband, said she saw the Thompsons drive up in front of the hotel after she closed the theater. Mrs. Hayman was present and talked to Mrs. Thompson, she said.

"I waited about 5 minutes, thinking Mrs. Thompson would go home with me," the witness said, "but she kept talking, so I went home with my 12-year-old son."

Mrs. Morris said that when she left her house near the jail to go to the picture house about 7 P. M., there was no crowd on the streets, but some policemen about the jail.

"There were only about six people in the picture house that night," she continued. "It was a very poor night. I saw the crowd begin to gather about 7.45. From the booth in front of the theater I recognized some of our local citizens who were on the streets. Probably there were quite a lot of them. Some were going toward the jail, but maybe they were going to the stores down that way.

Went Inside

"When I understood the crowd was coming down the street with Armwood past our theater, I closed the booth and went inside. I didn't want to see it."

"You knew a lynching was going on?" asked Senator Van Nuys.

"Naturally."

"And do the citizens of your town deplore it?"

"They certainly do; it has made a lot of innocent people suffer."

Real Effort, She Thinks

Mrs. Morris said she thought there had been 'real effort to to find the lynchers.

George W. Colborn, who lives in Princess Anne, but has run a drug store in Salisbury for about seven months, said he knew nothing about the lynching until after he got home that night at midnight, but corroborated Thompson's statement that the latter had been in his store at Salisbury about 9.20 or 9.25 of the lynch night.

"I spoke to him from my prescription counter, about thirty feet away from the soda fountain where he was standing," Colborn, a man of about 60, said.

Salisbury Depopulated

Colborn said Salisbury was "depopulated" that night of "a certain class of the population—youngsters from 12 to 25."

"At least, so it seemed in the store," he said.

The witness said he had heard plenty of talk about the lynching in his store after it happened, but never had heard anyone identify any members of the mob. Some of his customers had said they were at Princess Anne that night, he said, but he could not identify any of them.

Asked his opinion of the bill, Colborn said he deplored lynching, but felt that the veneer of civilization is so thin on some people that law is not much use when they are placed under stress and the influence of agitators. He defended the citizens of his section and, like Thompson, pointed out that people could gather there quickly from Virginia and Delaware when mischief was brewing. He hoped whatever law is passed might be helpful.

BALTIMORE, MD.
MORNING SUN

MAR 16 1934

SHOREMEN GET BID TO LYNCH HEARIN

Judge Duer And State's At torney Robins Surprised At Word In Washington

THOMPSON TO APPEA

Princess Anne Resident To Tes tify Today Before Senate Subcommittee

[By the Associated Press]

Salisbury, Md., March 15 — Th announcement from Washington tha three Eastern Shore officials would b allowed to testify before a Senate subcommittee holding hearings on an antilynching bill was received with surprise by two of them.

Judge Robert F. Duer, of Princess Anne, and State's Attorney John B. Robins, of Crisfield, yesterday said they did not request an opportunity to address the committee and had not received any invitation or summons.

State's Attorney Levin C. Bailey, of Salisbury, said he had received an invitation, but had not decided about going to Washington.

Thompson To Testify

William H. Thompson, of Princess Anne, named as one of the suspects i the George Armwood lynching, is t appear before the committee tomorrow.

Without making any report on Judge Joseph L. Bailey's instruction to investigate the rioting which occurred during the stationing of the State Guardsmen here last November 23, the Wicomico county grand jury ended its March term with the return o twenty-seven indictments, all for loca offenses.

Lynchings-1934

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Mississippi.

4636

PITTSBURGH, PA.
POST GAZETTE

FEB 14 1934

Upholding the Law in the South.

FOLLOWING the indictment of seven men, in Kentucky, for participating in a lynching comes the story of troops in Mississippi guarding three condemned men whom a mob wished to take and kill. The prisoners were disguised as guardsmen, and marched from the jail to the train in the midst of a force of 150 guardsmen with fixed bayonets.

In this instance the crime for which the men were jailed was the one for which Southern lynching bees are traditionally supposed to be held. The anger of the mob is not at all difficult to understand. But those men were in the hands of the law. They are to be hanged next month. The mob simply wished to anticipate the processes of legal justice—to "beat the law to it." Execution of those criminals by the state will, no doubt, have much more "deterrent value" than would a lynching.

Probe Of Mississippi Lynching Is Begun

Advertiser
6-10-34
Montgomery Ala.

CLARKSDALE, MISS., June 9—(AP)—Hampered by the reports of officers that members of a mob that lynched two negroes last night were "unknown" to them, the district attorney's office has begun an investigation into the hangings.

Dist. Atty. Greek P. Rice returned from Lambert today where he went to make a "complete and thorough" investigation of the midnight action of the mob, estimated to have numbered 125 men.

The two negroes, Isaac Thomas, alias Snow Ward, and Joe Love, alias Stewart were seized from officers at Alligator, three miles from Lambert, and hanged from a trestle for an alleged attack on the young wife of a plantation manager near Sledge.

Deputy Sheriff John Robert Spidle, of Quitman County, who was with the sheriff, W. T. Haynes, of Quitman, when the mob seized the negroes, said Quitman County officers did not recognize any of the members of the mob.

The negroes had been arrested in Greenwood in connection with a criminal attack upon the young woman.

Another "Necktie Party" E Shielding Mobsters—N. A. A. C. P. Protests to President Roosevelt and Senator Stephens.

Courier
6-16-34
Pittsburgh, Pa.

MARKS, Miss., June 14—(ANP)—"Business as usual" was reported in Bolivar county Saturday after a slight flurry caused Friday night by the lynching of two men who were "taken from" white peace officers and hanged from a trestle near Alligator.

A white coroner's jury reported Saturday that the men had come to their death at the hands of parties unknown.

The dead men are Isaac Thomas and Joe Love, farm hands. They were accused of "attempting" to assault the young wife of a white farmer.

One of the deputies, as is customary, stated that the men had "confessed" the crime.

More or less [illegible] statements from farm hands who knew the dead men have it that they had a quarrel with the white woman over the quality of food given them. In the midst of the quarrel, the woman's husband came to the house and she reporetd that the "hands" had insulted her. Unable to chastise the men himself, the young white farmer circulated stories among his friends.

Thomas and Love were arrested, the usual procedure in the these "cotton belt" counties when whites and blacks quarrel, and the mob gathered meanwhile.

At the time they were seized by the mob, Thomas and Love were in the custody of Sheriff W. T. Haynes of Quitman county and two deputies. These three claim that the mob leaders disarmed them and drove away with the prisoners.

Shortly afterward, the two men were discovered hanging from a trestle, their necks broken.

N. A. A. C. P. Protests

Immediately after word was received in New York, Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, sent strong wires to President Roosevelt and to Senator Hubert Stephens of Mississippi.

COMMISSION ASSAILS MISSISSIPPI LYNCHING

Constitution
6-23-34

The headquarters of the commission on interracial cooperation here Monday made public a letter from five Mississippi women to Governor Sennett Connor, recommending that the next legislature enact a law that would automatically remove from office any officer from whom a prisoner is seized and lynched.

Atlanta, Ga.

The letter was an outgrowth of a double lynching in Quitman county, Mississippi, on June 8.

It said the sheriff could have reached a jail well before nightfall and that, according to the report of the district attorney, though it was known that the citizens of the county were aroused, the prisoners were taken into the section where the alleged crime was committed.

6-19-34

The letter also said that District Attorney Greek Rice Jr., reported the case closed two hours after the bodies were cut down. It asked for a "reopening of this case for the purpose of clearing up these points which must appeal to all law-abiding citizens as in need of further investigation."

WHITE WOMEN BEHIND INVESTIGATION

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Va.

CLARKSDALE, Miss.— Stirred by the double lynching last week in Quitman County, the Mississippi Council of Women for the Prevention of Lynching is demanding of the sheriff and the prosecuting attorney that every effort be made to identify and bring to justice the leaders of the mob.

On the morning following the lynching, Mrs. L. W. Alford, chairman of the council, wired this demand to Sheriff W. T. Haynes. This was followed immediately with letters to the sheriff, the district prosecuting attorney, and sheriffs of the surrounding counties, urging them to do their duty.

It is anticipated that the council, comprising many outstanding white women of the state, will also address to the public a statemnt denouncing lynching and asking the cooperation of all good citizens for its suppression. Mrs. Alford's letter to Sheriff Haynes was as follows:

"I regret exceedingly that this black spot has been added to our state record. I insist that you and the other officers use your authority to identify the leaders of this mob and see that they are punished according to law. Such action on the part of officers and courts will eliminate mob violence and eradicate lynching.

"Certainly the prisoners should have had the limit of the law, but according to our Constitution they should have been given the right of a jury. The lynchers likewise suffer the legal consequences of their crims.

"As a citizen of our great commonwealth, I implore yot to do everything in your power to punish the leaders of this mob. This alone will solve the problem of lynching."

MISSISSIPPI WOMEN FILE LYNCH PROTEST

Letter to Conner Condemns Killing of Two Prisoners

Commercial Appeal
6-23-34

ATLANTA, June 19.—(AP)—Five Mississippi woman, in a letter to Governor Sennett Conner, today ask that the next Legislature pass a law automatically removing from his position any officer from whom a prisoner is seized and lynched.

Memphis, Tenn.

The letter was made public here by the headquarters of the Interracial Commission. It resulted from the lynching of Isaac Thomas and Joe Love, young negroes, near Lambert, Miss., who were alleged to have attacked the wife of a plantation manager near Sledge, Miss. The negroes were hanged on June 8.

6-20-34

The women in their letter requested that the case be reopened "for the purpose of clearing up these points which must appeal to all law abiding citizens as in need of further investigation." They said that District Attorney Greek Rice, Jr., reported the case closed two hours after the bodies were cut down.

The letter carried the names of Mrs. L. W. Alford, of McComb; Mrs. J. Morgan Stevens, of Jackson; Mrs. W. W. Epperson, of Jackson; Mrs. Mrytle Hicks, of Holly Springs, and Mrs. Lester Greer, of Potts Camp.

MISSISSIPPI ATONES FOR LATEST LYNCHING

Probe Demanded By White Women

Journal and Guide
6-23-34
Norfolk, Va.

What might be considered the atonement of the better class of whites in Mississippi for recourse on the part of the lower element to a barbarous reprisal of an alleged confessed attack on a white woman by two Negroes came as an aftermath to the double lynching in Clarksdale, June 8.

The victims of the necktie party in which approximately [illegible] illiterate whites participated are Joseph Love and Isaac Thomas.

The traditional southern testimony of Sheriff W. T. Haynes, from whose custody the two men were taken, that "I failed to recognize any of the lynchers," may have appeased and satisfied a none too interested coroner and District Attorney Greek Rice who "considered the case closed," but it incited to action the Mississippi Council of Women for the Prevention of Lynching, and may have influenced the state supreme court.

Death Sentence Reversed

In a recent decision handed down penalty meted out to a Negro farmer, who killed a white sheriff who entered his home with no authority, was reversed.

Considered as inhumane as the lynching itself was the order off District Attorney Rice, who kept the bodies swaying in the lazy summer breezes from sundown Friday to 9:30 a. m., Saturday.

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
June 16, 1934.

OFFICERS ATTEMPTED TO PREVENT LYNCHING

Governor Conner Rceives Demand for Prosecution

JACKSON, Miss., June 15.—A report of officers, showing they did "everything humanly possible" to protect two negroes who confessed to a criminal attack on a 19-year-girl, before a mob took over the negroes at gun point and lynched them, was revealed by Governor Conner here today.

The governor made his statement after receiving a telegram from the Frederick Douglass branch of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights of New York City, demanding "immediate prosecution" of the mob members.

Governor Conner pointed out today that he knew nothing of the Quitman County affair in which Joe Love and Isaac Thomas, each 25, were lynched, until after the negroes had been hanged.

Demopolis, Ala., Times
June 14, 1934

PERSONS UNKNOWN

A coroner jury over in Mississippi rendered the usual verdict after investigating the lynching of two negroes near Clarkesdale? "Hanged by persons Unknown." These negroes were in the hands of officers on the were said to have confessed. They were in the hand of officers on the way to jail and to the usual punishment, if guilty. If not guilty, the hanging was murder by a mob with no justification for the deed. The best that believers in law enforcement and law observance can do is to protest. It may or may not do any good, but that is all. No legal punishment can be expected of any member of any mob, whether or not the victim is guilty of the crime of which he is accused. So far, no legal remedy has been found for lynching. Mobs are immune from punishment.

Mobile, Ala., Press
June 16, 1934

OFFICERS REPORT EVERYTHING DONE TO STOP LYNCHING

Conner Reveals Results of Investigation After Receiving Protest

(By The Associated Press)

JACKSON, Miss., June 16.—A report of officers, showing they did "everything humanly possible" to protect two negroes who confessed to a criminal attack on a 19-year-old white girl, before a mob took over the negroes at gunpoint and lynched them, was revealed by Governor Sennett Conner here Friday after receiving a telegram from the Frederick Douglass branch, League of Struggle for Negro Rights, New York City, demanding "immediate prosecution" of the mob members.

"Protest lynching two negro youths, demand immediate prosecution of officers of law and mob. Hold you personally responsible," the wire said.

Governor Conner, who some months ago went to considerable expense for the state to protect from threatened mob violence, three negroes executed at Hernando for a similar offense, pointed out today that he knew nothing of the Quitman county affair in which Joe Love and Isaac Thomas, each 25 were strung up, until after the negroes had been hanged.

The report of District Attorney Greek Rice, who investigated the affair, said that the negroes confessed to the attack when the sherif went to Greenwood, where they had been apprehended, to get them. Hearing rumors of mob action, the sheriff and his party headed for the Jackson jail but were cut off by the mob and doubled back, only to be caught at a single track bridge near Hushpuckna, where leaders of the mob shoved automatics in the faces of the officers and took the negroes away from them, the report said.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
June 16, 1934

Negroes Protest Lynching.

JACKSON, Miss., June 15—(U.P.)—Governor Sennett Conner today received a strong protest from the Frederick Douglass branch, League of Struggle for Negro Rights, New York City, against the lynching of two negroes in Quitman county last week. "Demand immediate prosecution of law and mob. Hold you personally responsible," the telegram read.

Hattiesburg, Miss. American
June 9, 1034

LYNCHING OF 2 INVESTIGATED

District Attorney Leads Inquiry Into Hanging of Prisoners at Lambert

(By Associated Press)

LAMBERT, Miss., June 9.—Law forces of the Mississippi Delta concentrated today in the vicinity of Lambert in their investigation of the lynching last night of two young negroes accused of attempting to attack the wife of a plantation manager at Sledge, Miss.

The investigators were headed by District Attorney Greek P. Rice from Clarksdale, who came here with county deputies seeking the ringleaders of an armed mob of some 125 white men who seized the negroes, Joe Love and Isaac Thomas, from Sheriff W. T. Haynes of Quitman county and two of his deputies and hanged them from a small highway bridge three miles east of Lambert.

Counties Quiet

For several hours after the lynching the counties of Quitman, Bolivar and Leflore where the mob action arose were cloaked in utter silence and no one would discuss the dual lynching.

Late in the night the bodies of Love and Thomas were found by officers hanging from the bridge with their feet dangling above a gutted ravine. Their necks were broken but their bodies were not mutilated. Officers cut them down and laid them upon the bridge where they remained temporarily last night until plans could be made to dispose of them either through relatives or to bury them under Quitman county auspices.

Sheriff Haynes said Love was from Columbus, Miss., and Thomas was from Carollton. They had been employed on a Quitman county plantation. They were about 25 years of age.

Officers said the negroes were arrested near Greenwood, Miss., and that on being taken to that city they confessed to the attempted assault.

Block Bridge

Accompanied by Sheriff Spidle of Quitman county and Deputy Sheriff J. E. Summerall of Tallahatchie county, Sheriff Haynes was stopped by the mob of armed men in fifteen or twenty automobiles, he said early today after the bodies had been found.

The mob blocked a bridge between Hushpuchena, Miss., and Lambert, he said, overpowered him and his accompanying deputies and seized the negroes and whisked them away "to the north."

Sheriff Haynes said that they could "only turn back," with three pistols against the armed mob of more than a hundred men.

Deputy Spidle said the officers originally were attempting to get the prisoners to Jackson for incarceration in the strong Hinds county jail, but that after they had heard of the mob forming they turned up toward Clarksdale.

One crowd of men was encountered at Moorhead, Deputy Spidle said, "but we outtalked that bunch, and then we decided to change our course and go to Clarksdale."

Other Mobs

"I was trying to get the prisoners to any jail," said Sheriff Haynes after the negroes had been lynched and the mob had dispersed.

"What could we do with only three pistols when they met us at the bridge? There were other mobs back up the road, too."

After the negroes had been lynched and the mob had dispersed the countryside quieted down and no further trouble was expected, Sheriff Haynes reported.

First news of the double lynching got out through officers at Clarksdale after Sheriff Haynes had telephoned officers there that there was no need to reserve jail space for the two negroes as he had "been relieved of them."

Guntersville, Ala., Advertiser
June 20, 1934

PERSONS UNKNOWN

A coroner jury over in Mississippi rendered the usual verdict after investigating the lynching of two negroes near Clarksdale. "Hanged by persons Unknown." These negroes were in the hands of officers and were said to have confessed. They were in the hands of officers on the way to jail and to the usual punishment, if guilty, if not guilty the hanging was murder by a mob with no jurisdiction for the deed. The best that believers in law enforcement and law observance can do is to protest. It may or may not do any good, but that is all. No legal punishment can be expected of any member of any mob, whether or not the victim is guilty of the crime of which he is accused. So far, no legal remedy has been found for lynching. Mobs are immune from punishment.—Demopolis Times.

MERIDIAN, MISS
STAR
AUG 15 1934

PROBE LYNCHING OF TWO NEGROES

ASHLAND. (UP)—County officials conducted an investigation into the lynching of two negro slayers by masked mobs.

The negroes, Robert Jones and Smith House, were swung from a tree near Michigan City by mobs that seized them from officers on separate highways.

The negroes were hanged to a tree on the plantation of Mark M. Mason, deputy sheriff, for whose death Jones was indicted. Mason was killed while investigating the murder of Dennis Gillespie, plantation owner. Both negroes confessed the Gillespie slaying.

Lynchings - 1934
Side Lights.

Mississippi.

4647

POSSE SEEKING NEGRO

Commercial Appeal

1-7-34

Insulted Woman After Slaying Another Negro, Charge

MEADVILLE, Miss., Jan. 6.—(AP)—A posse commanded by Sheriff W. J. Crecink, of Franklin County, today was searching through the woods near the Lincoln County line for a negro accused of an insult yesterday to a woman and suspected of slaying a negro youth, Johnnie White.

The man sought was James McIntyre, a 35-year-old mill hand. Officers accused him of slaying the negro youth during a fight in a gambling game at Bude.

They said he fled and was then reported by a woman to have seized her at her home near Little Springs, east of Bude, as she went out on her porch about daybreak yesterday.

The woman told officers she recognized McIntyre and that she screamed and frightened the negro away.

Officers said they suspected McIntyre of being armed.

Jackson, Miss. Ledger
May 29, 1934

Law-Abiding Colored People Can Increase Legal Protections

By all reports, Jackson came nearer having a lynching Saturday evening than it has in many years, with both the victim and the potential mobsters colored.

The near-victim had murdered his wife and terrorized the neighborhood. City police rescued him from any angry group of negroes apparently bent on lynching him. They aver that though he was roughly handled he bore no marks of injuries when they rescued him and apparently had not been seriously harmed.

He died Sunday, but his death is officially blamed upon a dose of formaldehyde which he is said to have taken with suicidal intent. The sheriff's office reports it a closed case.

Our prime interest in the story lies in the fact that this was the first time, so far as we know, when any of our colored people manifested any move toward mobbery.

A lynching of a negro, by negroes, would be as discreditable as any other lynching. We are not alarmed by this one incident, but colored leaders of the city should note it and watch to discourage any further tendency toward mobbery.

It isn't necessary. The police and the courts are willing to punish crimes by negroes against negroes, to make the lives and the property of law-abiding colored people safe from criminals of their own race. But police and courts have been handicapped by racial secrecy, by unwillingness on the part of colored victims and witnesses to testify against accused criminals, or to give information tending to aid their indentification and capture.

Anything the colored leaders could do to overcome this habit would be worth while and of value to the race. Let it be said to their credit, that the colored leaders of this city and section have in the past met their obligation in this respect well.

POSSE SEEKS NEGRO IN JACKSON AREA

Accused of Insulting Woman at Forest Hill

Commercial Appeal

7-28-34

Memphis

JACKSON, Miss., July 27.—George Jackson, negro, 29, was hunted tonight by a posse and bloodhounds following an insulting proposal to a woman of the Forest Hill section.

Searchers invaded the wooded sector about eight miles southwest of here, after receiving a report that the negro had been seen early this morning. The men said that they learned that Jackson had spent the night at the home of a relative, and early this morning "made for the wooded sector."

About 40 men, armed with rifles and pistols, accompanied by Hinds County deputy sheriffs and Chief of Police Simmons of Jackson, were combing the woods. Two officers of the Jackson department, Carter and Crawford, were also assisting.

BLOODHOUNDS HUNT NEGRO ALONG RIVER

Commercial Appeal

Columbus Officers Start the Search, Ready for Gun Fight

8-25-34

Memphis

COLUMBUS, Miss., Aug. 24.—Bloodhounds late today were put upon the trail of Watson Williams, Columbus negro who defied police and took refuge in the woods bordering the Tombigbee River, one mile south of here.

Officers were prepared for a gun battle with Williams, wanted on a charge of burglary and uttering threats of murder. The negro fled into the woods armed with a shotgun and a supply of ammunition.

Officers predicted that Williams, described as "desperate," would not be taken alive.

Beats Husdand Who Objects To Outrage

Journal and Guide

Mississippi Whites Kidnap And Flog Young Farmer

8-25-34

CHASED OUT OF STATE

Norfolk, Va.

Victim Furnishes NAACP With Full Particulars

NEW YORK, N. Y.—A pathetic letter from a thrifty farmer owning 35 acres of land near Mantee, Miss., whose wife has been taken from him by a white farmer backed up by a mob, has been received by Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The writer, for obvious reasons, prefers to remain anonymous. His letter, in part, follows:

"My name is ———————, residing in East Chicago, Ind., until the past four years. I came to Mantee, Miss., the native home of my parents. After being there two months I married. . . . My wife and I got along fine until about eight weeks ago her guardian sowed dissatisfaction and deceit in her . . . She was sixteen years of age when we was married, being only nineteen now, so she was young and ignorant of life. This kept up until they eventually persuaded her from me. . . .

Told To Get Out

"My wife in the meantime had started cooking for a white man in Mantee. He was supposed to have sent word that she was there with them and he wanted me to leave the country, that he didn't want me around there trying to persuade her from working for him. I didn't know he said it and didn't care. I couldn't afford to work all year and leave it without cause.

"Well, Sat. nite, June 30 I went up to my wife's uncle (who) was standing in the house talking to her and 12 of them or more surrounded the house sticking rifles and shotguns thru the windows and four with pistols came in threw them on me, forced me out in the woods about two miles from town and 8 of them took turns beating me with a 4-inch wide gin belt doubled.

Took Turns In Beating

"When one got tired he's sit down and each of the remainder would flog me. After keeping this up for hours, (they carried me to the nearest place which freight trains stop. I was in an unconscious state. They give me orders to get out of the state and never return. By the help of two transients I got aboard of a freight train bound south. I got to a place called Louisville, Miss. There railroad commissioner Johnson and Constable Cal Capleson got me off the train.

"Seing my condition (my clothes was stuck to me from the bend of my knees to the middle of my back) they felt sorry for me. They carried me to the F. E. R. A. office and secured medical aid for me and got me some clean clothes and got a place for me to stay until I was able to hobble around."

In his letter the man gives the name of the white man who took his wife, the names of the white men who beat him, and the names of the Negroes who witnessed his kidnaping.

NEGROES CAPTURE ONE OF OWN RACE

Accused Escapes Violence As Deputy Arrives

JACKSON, Miss., Aug. 26—(AP)—A 30-year-old Louisiana Negro who police charge attempted to attack an aged Negro woman, narrowly escaped violence at the hands of an armed mob of Negroes on the outskirts of Jackson Friday night.

The Negro, Willie Gallon, who said he was from Newellton, La., was rescued by Deputy Sheriff A. B. Derrick and lodged in the County Jail.

Deputy Derrick said the Negroes, whom he estimated to number approximately 100, surrendered their prisoner peacefully, but admitted they had intended to do him bodily harm.

The officer said he found the Negroes of the community where the alleged intended victim lived, highly incensed and had taken up a sweeping hunt for Gallon as soon as word spread of the affair.

Derrick said many of the Negroes were armed with shotguns, improvised cudgels and other weapons. The mob, however, had not harmed the Negro when Derrick arrived.

The officer said a charge of attempted criminal assault would be preferred against Gallon. He has been in this section only a short time.

Negro Sought For Attack Upon Mississippi Woman

Advertiser

TUPELO, MISS., Sept. 7.—(AP)—An armed posse of farmers continued a search tonight for the negro police said attempted to attack a white woman at her farm home near here early today.

The negro fled the scene when Mrs. Sallie Branyan, middle-aged widow, who lives alone on the Chesterville Road, started screaming when she awakened and found the negro in her home. She telephoned Sheriff Will Kelly and several neighbors. A posse was quickly formed.

9-8-34

Led by bloodhounds the posse held the trail a good part of the day, but lost it as dusk came on.

ABDUCTION IN DELTA ADMITTED BY NEGRO

Commercial Appeal

Youth Confesses Kidnaping of Delta Planter

9-25-34

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Sept. 24—(AP)—Officers announced here today that Jeff Robinson, [illegible]-year-old negro, had admitted participation in the abduction of H K. Sage, a wealthy Dublin planter, on Sept. 12.

Robinson was arrested in Memphis and was brought here and placed in the Coahoma County jail. Robinson, together with L. C. Crops, 30-year-old negro, was held today to the action of the county grand jury on charges of kidnaping and robbery. The former was wounded while fleeing from a delta posse shortly after the abduction.

The charge under Mississippi law is a capital charge.

POSSE MEN WOUNDED IN CAPTURING NEGRO

Commercial Appeal

Police Save Assailant From Mob

8-12-34

CRYSTAL SPRINGS, Miss., Aug. 11.—Louis Lee, negro, whom officers rushed to the county jail last night, following his capture after a gun battle with a posse of local citizens, in which Julius Lotterhos, alderman, and John Puckett, deputy sheriff, received wounds, was reported not fatally shot, authorities said this morning.

Police outwitted a mob of several hundred and safely conveyed their wounded prisoner to the Hazlehurst jail, after an exchange of gunfire.

Lee's wife was in a critical condition here today after being slashed by her husband. Lee is alleged to have set fire to his home and fired from ambush on Night Fire Chief E. J. McGraw and his assistants when they sought to extinguish the blaze.

A posse of citizens was deputized and was headed by Chief of Police T. T. Slay, Deputy Sheriffs John Puckett and Louis Furr and Night Marshal McBride.

Lee opened fire from behind a sage bush. Several passing automobiles were sprayed with buckshot. Finally surrounded and at first thought to be mortally wounded, Lee was taken into custody by the five local officers.

HUNT FOR NEGRO

Intruder Terrorizes Home In Mississippi At Point Of Gun

CLEVELAND, Miss.—(AP)—Search was under way Tuesday by a Bolivar County posse directed by Mayor Waldrop of Merigold, for an unidentified Negro who terrorized the household of Mr. and Mrs. Will Davis, near Merigold and escaped.

The Negro was believed to be a stranger in this section. He surprised the members of the household by demanding money at the point of a pistol and trussed up with ropes Mrs. Davis and her two daughters and made them lie on the floor. Davis escaped and notified neighbors.

Davis said the Negro fired at him as he ran for aid and as he returned the Negro fled. Bloodhounds from Clarksdale were being used by the posse.

Hunt Farm Hand for Murders

QUITMAN, Miss., Dec. 7.—A fight that started between two brothers and a friend on a rabbit hunt Saturday, came to an end only after one entire family of five had been wiped out and three others seriously wounded. The shooting occurred on a farm about 12 miles from here.

According to information given police, Floyd Watson, a 21-year-old farm hand, had been hunting with Cleveland and Woodrow Moss, brothers, on the Moss farm. On the return trip, the boys started an argument over a sum of money which Watson claimed belonged to him.

The quarrel ended when Watson poured charges of shot into the bodies of both the boys. They died instantly. Proceeding to the Moss farmhouse, Watson met the 16-year-old daughter, Susie, who was alleged to have been his sweetheart. Without a moment's hesitation, Watson killed this member of the family.

He next encountered the mother and shot her dead. From the house, he went to the field where Sanders Moss, the father, was working, and before the old man could take cover or defend himself, Watson fired his shotgun point blank at him. He died instantly. As a final gesture, Watson fired a shot at three other relatives of the family who were huddled together in the field, and they dropped, all wounded.

Watson then calmly left the farm and disappeared into the woods where he is now being sought by police.

Missouri.

Lynchings-1934
6
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4633

ST. LOUIS, [illegible]
TIMES
FEB 6 1934

THE LYNCHING TRIAL FIASCO.

Acquittal of the first of seven defendants in the St. Joseph, Mo., lynching trial was almost a foregone conclusion when it was announced the trial would be in the defendants' home town. The state acted commendably in getting the evidence, making the arrests, and getting the facts before a grand jury. The grand jurors did their full duty as citizens when they ignored local sentiment and voted to indict. Assistant State's Attorney General Sawyer showed full comprehension of popular prejudice when he asked the court to give the jurors the alternatives of conviction of second degree murder or manslaughter, as well as murder in the first degree. That furnished a way to make the case a lesson by imposition, in case of conviction, of a short penitentiary term. But the jurors would have nothing of it.

Regardless of the value of the evidence in this one case, it is likely that no proofs could have been submitted that would have caused any twelve St. Joseph citizens to vote for conviction. It was a repetition of what has happened in every Missouri community where lynchings and burnings have occurred—even in St. Louis, in the early days.

No wonder the state plans to let the other defendants go. Trial under such circumstances would be a waste of time and money. What stops lynching is riot guns and rifles in the hands of determined officers or militia, and what makes officers of the law use these weapons when lynching riots occur is a knowledge that public sentiment solidly backs them up. There would have been no lynching in St. Joseph if the people of that city had swarmed to the sheriff's aid. Public opinion against lynching implies public respect for law and order so great that it will not tolerate violence in place of it. Not only in St. Joseph, but in many other communities of the southwest, that seems a considerable distance off.

ST. JOSEPH, MO.
GAZETTE
FEB 5 1934

THE LYNCHING ACQUITTAL.

Lynching is a subversion of the orderly processes of law, a breaking down of government and a retrogression of civilization. Therefore, the fact that an alleged member of a mob which murdered a rapist in our city last November was given a fair trial, that a court of justice so functioned that the accused was given a hearing before a jury of his peers, is of itself a reassertion of the right of organized society to govern itself by statute. That a man accused of being a member of a bloodthirsty mob has been acquitted is incidental.

We are not concerned with the weight of evidence against the man who was tried for being a member of the lynching mob. Twelve men heard the testimony, weighed it, and decided that it was not sufficient for conviction. That is according to law, and according to the manner in which civilized people believe that persons accused of crime should be tried.

Conviction, after all, is not a triumph of justice. Justice prevails only when men are granted their full rights under our laws, and are fairly and impartially allowed to defend themselves before a group of their fellows. A just trial is the essence of justice and mob action is, by the same token the essence of injustice. That the law was resorted to in this instance of one accused of seeking to break down that institution is assurance that our courts, after all, are fundamental to society.

In the last third of a century, according to one survey, there have been in this country seventy-six convictions of persons participating in lynchings. One of them was in Missouri thirty years ago. The communities in which these convictions were gained deserve full credit for seeing that the guilty persons were punished. Full credit, also, should be given to the state attorney general's staff and local officials for their endeavor to administer justice in this case. They demonstrated that established government still functions, and that it protects those charged with seeking to overthrow its cherished institutions. By this demonstration they have done much to erase the blot of the barbaric affair of last November.

MISSOURI FREES LYNCHERS

Defender
2-17-34
Chicago

Under the direction of the Missouri "New Deal" seven known lynchers have been freed. The attorney general of the state, Roy McKittrick, stated that the jury was a group of "good represenative citizens" of Buchanan county and in view of their verdict of not guilty in the first case it would be useless to proceed further.

When the group of "good representative citizens" refused to convict Walter Garton for taking part in the lynching of Lloyd Warrner the attorney general dropped the other six cases. The readiness with which the chief law officer of the state of Missodri abandoned further prosecution of the other lynchers involved appears to have been not entirely out of harmony with the spirit which motivated and gave purpose to the decision of that group of "good representative citizens."

This picture of the proceedings emphasizes no doubt, both the public and private conscience of the prosecutor and its counterpart in the social system and scheme of our national life. The abandonment of further prosecution was at the same time an abandonment of public confidence and devotion to honest service imposed and confided by the people of Missouri who clothe Mr. McKittrick with the responsibility of attorney general of the state.

Notwithstanding the fact that several witnesses had come forward and identified the men accused of the lynching, this testimony was insufficient and there was none presented to the contrary.

In view of all the facts and circumstances there may be cause for disagreement with the attorney general as to whether this jury could be respectfully referred to as "good representative citizens." This appellation so generously used with respect to those who comprised the jury by the attorney general may occasion further injury as their respectability on the question of law and order in Missouri. Would "good representative citizens" condone murder? Would "good representative citizens" refuse to convict a lyncher when creditable witnesses had testified to his presence and participation in the crime? Are we to understand that these "good representative citizens" represent the majesty of the law as they see it? Is it their conception of maintaining law and order that guilt or innocence are to be determined by one's racial identity?

It might be well to inquire of the attorney general an explanation of his conception of a "good representative citizen." Such an inquiry and answer thereto would simplify the whole proceedings and might even justify the conduct of those to whom the prosecutor refers as "good representative citizens." But until this point has been cleared up the natural conclusion arrived at must be that any group of citizens constituting a jury in such a cause and under such circumstances who failed to measure up to the responsibilities implied are themselves in the performance of that duty amenable to the same corrupting influences as those who participated in the crime.

N. Y.
SENTINEL

FEB 8 1934

Drop Lynching Prosecutions

When the mob at St. Joseph took Lloyd Warner, a Negro youth, from the jail and lynched him November 28, Governor Park of Missouri roundly denounced the members and gave instructions that the leaders be prosecuted. Seven men were indicted and the sheriff censured by the grand jury for "failing to protect the prisoner." One trial has been held, resulting in acquittal. Now the authorities have announced an intention of dropping all proceedings. No action has been taken against the sheriff. The only consolation for those believing in law and order seems to be that the acquitted man has been returned to the reformatory as a parole violator.

There were two sets of indictments—for first degree murder and for malicious destruction of property, the latter being in connection with the damage to the county jail and the sheriff's quarters at the time of the lynching. No one is to be punished for either offense. The county is going to sit down and swallow this injury both to its fair fame and to its property. And this in the face of the sheriff's exclamation the next day that if he had known what the mob was doing to his own furniture and other belongings, he "would have shown them" what a real defense of a jail could be.

COFFEYVILLE, KANS.
JOURNAL

FEB 6 1934

THE LAW SURRENDERS.

The first case in the St. Joe lynching ends in acquittal of the defendant, against whom the evidence was overwhelming, according to reports. The jury verdict, therefore, may be said to have turned on the matter of public policy, rather than guilt or innocence.

A jury's function is to judge the facts. The St. Joe jury went further, which is nothing new in American jurisprudence. A Kansas candidate for governor once said the (prohibitory) law cannot be enforced where public sentiment is against it. Truth of his conclusion has been abundantly supplied on both the Kansas statute and the national statute, recently voided by constitutional amendment.

In the circumstances, we are confronted with the proposition of turning public sentiment against lynching. It is a slow process but there is no other way, under the constitution.

If any censure is due Attorney General McKittrick of Missouri and the trial judge, J. V. Gaddy, it is for early discouragement. Here was a real opportunity to make sentiment against lynching; an opportunity, however, calling for more courage than the average politican packs around.

LEAVENWORTH, KANS.
TIMES

FEB 6 1934

ST. JOSEPH LYNCHING CASE.

The State of Missouri having made its gesture in prosecuting one of seven men indicted in connection with the lynching of Lloyd Warner now admits it has no chance of conviction, the case against Walter Garton having been considered by state's attorneys as the strongest.

Acquittal for Garton on the first ballot was something to be expected at the hands of the jury, the state having failed to introduce convincing testimony that the defendant took part in the actual mob killing. Any jury in any other city in the country probably would have returned a similar verdict under similar circumstances. Members of mobs are seldom, if ever convicted.

The authorities of Missouri knew this, but they were forced to take action through a wave of sentiment which swept the country following the Maryland, California and Missouri lynchings. They also knew that the state could not throw up its hands and refuse to take action. So the prosecutions were ordered.

The time for Missouri to have become interested in the matter was before the mob formed. Due caution in safe-guarding the prisoner by removal to some other jail where his whereabouts could have been concealed would have saved Missouri the stigma of a lynching. Buchanan county authorities must have sensed what was liable to happen, but they took no extraordinary precautions to avert mob violence. It becomes too late to act after the mob spirit becomes aroused, unless wholesale slaughter is determined upon to quel that spirit. That is the great lesson the St. Joseph case should instill in the minds of peace officer everywhere. The crime of lynching can be stopped only be vigilance on the part of those whose duty it is to keep the peace, human lust for vengeance being what it is.

KNOXVILLE, TENN.
JOURNAL

FEB 10 1934

Acquitted

The story of the recent St. Joseph, Missouri, lynching case passes into oblivion with the acquittal of Walter Garton of the charge of murder.

In spite of protests, resolutions and official activities against the leaders of the mob which, on a night of last November took a Negro prisoner from the jail at St. Joseph, hanged him from a tree and burned his body, the trial has come to nothing.

The jury before which Garton as the one of seven men accused of murder against whom evidence was the strongest, has brought in its verdict of acquittal.

Charges dropped included malicious destruction of property in connection with the damage done the jail when the mob fought back the National Guardsmen and forced its way inside.

The case was dismissed by the circuit judge, with the Attorney General at Jefferson City making this announcement

> "I am informed that the jury was a group of good representative citizens of Buchanan County, and in view of the verdict of not guilty it would be useless to spend more money in prosecuting the other cases now pending."

The failure of the sheriff at the jail to protect the Negro boy had been censured, many witnesses had testfied to Garton's active participation in the mob's fury and to his subsequent boasting of the fact.

The grand jury had called the lynching an "inhuman orgy."

Governor Park, who ordered the state investigation, had declared the mob's action "wholly unjustified."

prosecuting attorney had nded the jury of the President's wish that law and order be restored in this land.

Yet with a mob of 5,000 to 8,000 people who watched the barbarous demonstration and must have seen the leaders of the horrible deed, it has been impossible to bring anybody to justice.

The whole disgraceful incident, as it seems to be, is closed with the return of Garton to the Iowa Reformatory from which he was a parole violator.

The matter has reached the end accepted in such cases by this great country whose proud citizenship we bear.

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Missouri.

4634

Missouri Abandons Lynching Prosecutions After Alleged Mob Member Is Acquitted

By The Associated Press.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Feb. 5.—The State's attempt to punish leaders of the mob that lynched Lloyd Warner, Negro youth, here the night of Nov. 28 collapsed today.

All pending cases will be dismissed as a result of the acquittal by a jury Saturday night of Walter Garton, one of seven men charged with first degree murder in connection with the lynching.

In making the announcement at Jefferson City, Attorney General Roy McKittrick, said the case against Garton was the strongest.

2-6-34

"I am informed that the jury was a group of good representative citizens of Buchanan County, and in view of the verdict of not guilty it would be useless to spend more money in prosecuting the other cases now pending," he said.

The decision was reached after the Attorney General conferred today with two assistants, William O. Sawyers and Franklin Regan, and Frank L. Kirtley, Prosecuting Attorney of Buchanan County. Circuit Judge A. V. Gaddy announced he would grant the dismissals.

Charges to be dropped include malicious destruction of property in connection with the damage to the county jail when the mob fought back National Guardsmen, forced its way inside and took the Negro from Sheriff Otto Theisen.

Warner, accused of assaulting a white girl, was hanged from a tree and his body burned in view of a crowd estimated at from 5,000 to 8,000.

Several State witnesses identified Garton as having been active in the mob and declared he boasted of participation in the lynching. A World War veteran and restaurant cook, Garton did not take the stand. The defense called several alibi witnesses.

In the prosecution's final argument Assistant Attorney General Sawyers told the jurors that President Roosevelt was awaiting the verdict.

"It is the wish of our President that law and order be restored in this land," he said.

No action has been taken against Sheriff Theisen, who was censured by the grand jury for "failing to protect the Negro." The grand jury called the lynching an "inhuman orgy." Governor Guy B. Park, who ordered the State investigation, declared the mob's action was wholly unjustified.

Charles Enos, Chief of Police, announced that Garton will be returned to Iowa Reformatory at Anamosa as a parole violator to complete a sentence of five years imposed in 1920 on a charge of breaking into a car.

LYNCHING LAUGHS AT STATE LAW

The acquittal of the man accused of participation in the St. Joseph, Missouri lynching was expected. Acquittal is the history of mob crimes, because from the public comes the jury which is sole judge of the facts.

Call

Lynching is a crime which is hard to scotch. In Maryland and California grand juries supposed to represent the law, refused to indict. In Florida the governor condemns a lynching but there is no running to cover by the lynchers. Alabama continues to flaunt its shameless abandon of legal procedure. Missouri called upon to provide witnesses who would testify and a jury that would convict, was unequal to the task.

2-9-34

A federal law is the only way to get rid of lynching. It took federal aid to put bandits and kidnapers on the run. There were honest local officials before Uncle Sam took a hand against the Capones and the Underhills, but somewhere these notorious public enemies found a loophole in the net set by state law and state officials.

Kansas City

For one thing federal prosecution of lynchers will do away with local influence on the jury. With the mob's victim dead, his guilt taken for granted, neighbors are reluctant to vindicate the letter of the law when they are sure that the lynching carried out its intent that crime be punished.

There is reason for doubt that the St. Joseph Negro was guilty. His nonchalant demeanor after he knew the police wanted him counts heavily in favor of his innocence. The girl supposed to have been attacked continues to say she was "never hurt." Even the confession he is said to have made may be another instance of police imposing on a weak mind through promises.

But if everything pointed to Lloyd Warner's innocence, he is dead and any American community easily reasons that a life is more than the law because it is accustomed to disregard the latter anyway. It takes that view the more easily because having had its thirst for blood slaked momentarily, it goes to the other extreme.

A federal law against lynching was once opposed because it was an invasion of the state's right over the life of its citizens. Since that time, public opinion has twice accepted federal interference, opening the way for a national law against lynching. It will be passed,—if opinion has advanced to the point where mob murder is counted a crime.

Effort To Punish Lynchers Fails

Advertiser
2-6-34

ST. JOSEPH, MO., Feb. 5.—(AP)—The State's attempt to punish leaders of the mob that lynched Lloyd Warner, negro youth, here the night of Nov. 28, collapsed today.

All pending cases will be dismissed as the result of the acquittal by a jury Saturday night of Walter Garton, one of seven men charged with first degree murder in connection with the lynching.

In making the announcement at Jefferson City, Atty. Gen. Roy McKittrick said the case against Garton was the strongest.

"I am informed the jury was a group of good representative citizens of Buchanan County, and in view of the verdict of not guilty it would be useless to spend more money in prosecuting the other cases now pending," McKittrick said.

Charges to be dropped include malicious destruction of property in connection with the damages to the county jail when the mob fought back National Guardsmen, forced its way inside and took the negro from Sheriff Otto Theisen.

Warner, accused of assaulting a white girl, was hanged from a tree and his body burned in view of a crowd estimated at from 5,000 to 8,000.

Several State witnesses identified Garton as having been active in the mob and declared he boasted of participation in the lynching.

Chief of Police Chalres Enos announced that Garton would be returned to Iowa Reformatory at Anamosa as a parole violator to complete a sentence of five years imposed in 1920 on a charge of breaking into a car.

[redacted]

SAFE FOR LYNCHERS

Buchanan County is safe for lynchers. That seems to be the unavoidable conclusion to be drawn from the recent action of St. Joseph jury which freed Walter Garton on a charge of murder. Not only did the august 12 absolve him of the extreme penalty, they deliberately refused to affix any whatsoever. In order to mete out some degree of punishment, the prosecution must convict him of malicious destruction of property. Since the first jury so swiftly decreed his innocence of all evil doing, it is more than probable that the second jury will likewise pin a hero medal on his chest.

The verdict at St. Joseph indicates unmistakably that Sheriff Theisen and his deputies were right when they handed their prisoner over to the mob. The defense attorneys screamed allegations of cowardice as they voiced their client's side of the case. These officers were not yellow, however. They accurately judged the tempr of th mob and the temper of the people as well. They knew that popular opinion was on the side of the lynchers. The bullets and bricks which whizzed through the windows of the Buchanan County jail were warnings to any who hoped to secure elective office at the hands of the voters. The sheriff and his assistants knuckled under to the mob not because they feared for their personal but for their political lives.

The two assistant attorney-generals of Missouri who handled the Garton prosecution made an excellent case for the state. Instead of trying other members of the mob which lynched Lloyd Warner last December, they might as well save their energy. The people of St. Joseph and Buchanan County are very, very fond of lynchers.

NEW ORLEANS,
TRIBUNE
FEB 9 1934

Fostering Lynching

MISSOURI'S earnest effort to punish a least the leaders of a St. Joseph lynch mob collapses as a jury acquits one of sever accused of murder. The Attorney-Genera says the case against this man was stronge than that against the other six. Severa witnesses testified that the man on tria was active in the mob and boasted of takin part in the lynching.

This outcome was to be expected, muc as we had hoped for another. Governo Rolph demonstrated for us the worst possible public attitude toward lynching—official justification of it. Governors of Kentucky, Missouri, Florida, and Maryland have since exhibited a more civilized attitude. That still leaves the public out o the account. Without public backing the best of mayors, governors, peace officers and prosecutors can achieve nothing. Th Missouri acquittal is a stigma on the citizens of a whole state.

COLUMBUS, O.
OHIO STATE JOURNAL
FEB 8 1934

Curbing Lynchers.

CREDIT is due officials at St. Joe, Mo., for trying to convict men charged with having a part in the recent lynching in that city, even though if the jury in the first trial returned a verdict of not guilty. As always, difficulty was experienced in finding witnesses able or willing to make a positive identification of any individual who had a physical part in the mob murder. Obviously without such identification an acquittal was certain.

Although there have been no convictions the fact that a dutiful court ordered the investigation and a diligent prosecutor used the full power of his office to make a case will have a salutary effect. Men will not care to rush blindly into such demonstrations when they realize that determined efforts will be made to punish them.

Brooklyn, N. Y. Eagle
FEB 11 1934

Missouri Immunizes Lynchers.

One member of the St. Joseph lynching party, who, according to testimony, boasted of his participation in the mob murder in Missouri, was acquitted by a "jury which was a group of good representative citizens of Buchanan County," as Attorney General McKittrick declares, and hence all pending cases are to be dropped and the murder is to go unpunished. As for the acquitted man, it appears he is wanted in Iowa as a convict who violated his parole, and he will be extradited to finish a five-year term for robbery. So his vindication is not quite complete.

Missouri has been regarded as a civilized State. The immunizing of lynchers by a failure to prosecute does not suggest civilization. By the action of this Attorney General Missouri is as deeply disgraced as California was by the Rolph condonation of the San Jose lynching. Honest, fearless public prosecutors are spurred by one miscarriage of justice to prevent other miscarriages, no matter what it may cost to vindicate the honor of a commonwealth. That lynching is first-degree murder logically and legalistically cannot possibly be denied.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.
TIMES UNION
FEB 9 1934

A Lynching Verdict

The state of Missouri started in earnestly to prosecute the lynchers of Lloyd Warner, Negro, but it got no farther than a jury. The state presented its strongest case first. Several witnesses identified the first defendant as boastinng of his part in the lynching. The defendant, Walter Garton, was acquitted by the jury but he will be returned to Iowa Reformatory as a parole violator.

The attorney general of Missouri has made a statement saying that he is informed that the jury was made up of representative citizens of Buchanan County and in view of the verdict it would be useless to prosecute the other cases now pending.

Probably the attorney general is right and the other prosecutions would fail as did this, but we do not like to see justice so quickly discouraged. The jury, it appears, returned its verdict contrary to the evidence and considered other things besides the testimony. Obviously "representative citizens" of Buchanan County are opposed to penalizing persons who take the law into their own hands and they will not discountenance mob murder of a Negro. If that is "representative citizenship" there is nothing left to be said.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER
FEB 7 1934

A LYNCHING CASE ENDS

THE virtual impossibility of obtaining jury verdicts against lynching suspects has again been demonstrated. Following the lynching of a Negro at St. Joseph, Mo., on November 28, Governor Park ordered an immediate investigation, which resulted in the arrest of several alleged members of the mob on charges of murder. The first of these suspects having been acquitted, the State has decided not to press the remaining charges.

The evidence may have been inconclusive, but it is always to be remembered that the selection of a man for jury service does not mean that he can free himself from human emotions and prejudices. The suppression of lynching and the punishment of those who participate in such mob acts must in most cases await the development of a strong public opinion against this form of lawlessness.

LAFAYETTE, IND.
JOURNAL & COURIER
FEB 6 1934

MOB RULE IN MISSOURI

A jury at St. Joseph, Mo., disregarding the court's instructions, brought in a verdict of acquittal, on the first ballot, in the case of one of half a dozen leaders of a mob. The alleged mobster was charged with first degree murder. He was accused of taking part in the lynching of Lloyd Warner, 19-year-old Negro. Warner was awaiting trial for an alleged criminal attack on a white girl. The lynching took place just after the tragedy in California which moved Gov. Rolph of the coast state to acclaim mob rule and voice his support of mobsters. The Missouri mob simply carried out the Rolph idea. Evidently the demoralizing influence of Rolph and his murderous cult continues to affect the jury system, even over against Missouri. That St. Joseph jury apparently holds the theory that when one crime begets a thousand criminals the menace to order, to society and to life and property is not to be considered. It is disheartening to realize the extent of the damage done by such evil demagogues as Rolph. The educational efforts of several decades are nullified. The work of safe-guarding society against the mob; the task of stabilizing government itself against the attacks of outlawry, prejudice, racial hatred and violence must be done over. Nevertheless, that educational work is absolutely vital to the perpetuity of government, the survival of justice and the vindication of civilization.

KANSAS CITY, MO.
STAR
FEB 6 1934

Lynching Cases Dropped.

The acquittal of Walter Garton, charged with participation in the St. Joseph lynching, was to have been expected. As the Garton case was regarded the strongest, the dismissal of the other charges by the attorney general was not surprising.

It is proverbially difficult to get convictions in lynching trials. The reasons are obvious. Lynchings are prompted by outraged public feeling, very generally shared by the communities affected. When the passion of vengeance has been satisfied and the normal life of the community restored, it is difficult to get neighbor to testify against neighbor. This was true in the St. Joseph case. Although Garton was identified as a participant, the identification was not convincing to the jury. If it had been a verdict of guilty would have been rendered for the court gave wide latitude—first degree murder to manslaughter—in its instructions.

Although the St. Joseph trial resulted in acquittal, and although the other cases have been dismissed, the investigation of the lynching by the state, the filing of direct charges against several alleged participants, and the long and formal trial of one of them have had a salutary effect. The proceeding had a sobering influence. It was a forceful reminder that lynching is a crime; that lynchers are not necessarily immune because they experience the feeling of mob justification; that if persisted in, the practice of obtaining evidence against alleged lynchers and, when such evidence is sufficient, bringing them to trial, is not an agreeable prospect to contemplate, even if it is difficult to get convictions.

Lynchings-1934

Missouri.

4635

Legal Punishment of Lynchers

[redacted]

THE LAW'S DUTY DONE.

The hanging of the negro at St. Joseph last November, is a closed book. The forces of the law were congregated there and a trial was held, with the outcome, a whitewash, predetermined before the trial was held. But the law must do its duty—and now the prosecutors, the judge and the attorney-general are agreed it is done so "taxpayers' money is not to be wasted in further attempts to convict," with the jury freeing the one against whom the most evidence had been prepared. The same quoted statement might also have been made a month ago, if there has been any real sentiment of that kind existing.

This reminds us of childish games we played years ago. We went through all the motions, and kept serious faces—just as was done in St. Joseph in the Garton trial.

The blame, of course, for the non-success of the trial, will be placed on the twelve good men and true who sat in the jury box. Directly they are responsible for Garton's freedom, but the blame goes lots farther back than that—involving a case of reform of legal procedure which would make it possible to punish the guilty person surely—which peope do not now have.

The governor of California, when a lynching took place there recently, has been freely criticized for frankly stating that he would pardon all involved if convicted at a trial, because such prompt action was the surest way to stop kidnaping. We much rather believe in his frank facing of the weaknesses of the law, than the farce perpetrated at St. Joseph—and repeated in all similar cases—of making a gesture of doing its duty, then throwing up its hand in helpessness, and adding further to the feeling in the minds of the people generally of the impotence of our judicial system.

We are not upholding lynch law. It is only to be condemned. But at its worst it is little worse than the things which now exist in our out-worn trial procedure. We deplore lynch law, but it will exist as long as things remain as they are in our judicial system. Reforms have many times been suggested, but are blocked mostly through the efforts of a few lawyers who prey off the unfortunate, and make their living by attempting to nullify legal punishment, and keep criminals from going to jail.

It's no wonder when a serious crime is committed that the people won't let the law take its course. But don't let's kid ourselves into believing that we are going to stop lynching unless we give the public adequate reason to believe that persons guilty of monstrous crimes will be adequately punished. We're tolerant of minor crimes, in this country, but we want offenders who overstep all bounds properly dealt with. That—and that only—is the reason why lynchings, just now, are increasing, rather than decreasing.

The prevailing view at St. Joseph of the trial is given, in an editorial on this page, clipped from the St. Joseph News-Press.

Independence, Kans.
REPORTER

FEB 8 1934

Other Editorial Opinions

THE WAY OF THE LYNCHING

Salina Journal—The famous St. Joseph, Mo., lynching trial has gone the way of most charges connected with lynchings. Nobody is going to be convicted of anything.

But it must be said that, in this case the prosecution went much farther than is usual. There are three stages in dealing with lynchings after they are over. The first is an investigation. It is rarely that this is pressed to anything like definiteness. In most cases there is much talk about an investigation to the bottom—and the whole thing is allowed to be forgotten.

If, however, there is something like an investigation, the second step is prosecution. It is seldom this is started. In the St. Joe case, however, the matter hurdled the first and second obstacles and got into the third. And conditions being what they are, and human beings what they are there was no further result. It is possible, however, that some time in the future some lyncher may be convicted.

Lynching is bad business. Too often it is forced by laxity in law and law enforcement. Often the result of lynchings is good. But the mob is not usually what it is pictured. Very often—as in the St. Joe cases—it is not a group of "quiet, determined, cool men." It is, instead, a wild horde with all passions unleashed and judgment gone to pieces. Most of the details of a mob story are not published. They would be too shocking and seem unbelievable. And mobs, are frequently, the magnets to draw hoodlums who see in this kind of "service" the opportunity to become heroes and render themselves immune from punishment or chastisement because of their general reputation.

[redacted]

FACTS WITHHELD FROM THE JURY.

From St. Joseph News-Press.

No one can charge that the so-called mob case was not ably and even relentlessly pressed in court. The jury probably measured up to the average of intelligence. Judge Gaddy presided with impartiality and let in every scrap of relevant evidence. His charge to the jury was correct in its exposition of the law. Counsel for the state, which included two assistant attorneys general, overlooked nothing that could legitimately lead to conviction. Yet the jury after brief deliberation brought in a verdict of not guilty.

Since this was the strongest of the eight cases resulting from the lynching of a Negro in St. Joseph last November, it is probable that the remaining cases will be dismissed. To try them might prove a needless public expense. The grand jury found sufficient evidence to justify indictments on murder charges, for certainly the mob, or its leaders, took the Negro from the sheriff's custody and killed him, but a grand jury, unlike a trial court, is not hampered by technicalities.

The defendant in the case just tried, Walter Garton, did not take the witness stand in his own behalf, a circumstance on which the prosecuting attorney was not permitted to comment to the jury and this is one of he technicalities by which law hobbles the state in its war on crime. It was a significant omission, this failure to testify, for certainly the accused, if innocent, would be anxious to take the stand and explain any suspicious circumstances relied upon by the prosecution. But if Garton had taken the stand he would have been subjected to cross-examination by the state, which probably would have gone into his antecedents—and that almost certainly would have brought out the fact that he had been convicted of a felony in Iowa and sentenced to prison, and that Iowa now wants him on a charge of violating his parole.

As to what effect, if any, this disclosure would have had on the minds of the jurors none can say. But certainly, if they were to reach an intelligent verdict, they were entitled to this vial detail in the defendant's police record. It was withheld from them. Garton did not take the stand. If the prosecuting attorney in summing up the evidence had referred to this fact or had attempted to point out its significance, it would have been reversible error.

Back of his and similar abuses are the laziness and indifference of the people with respect to their defense against crime. Demand and effort for law reform have persisted in a feeble way for fifty years or more, but betterment has lagged far behind the needs of society. That administration of justice is a proper function of government is admitted even by those who insist upon a minimum of government. But this unanimity of opinion has never evoked zeal for effective criminal procedure comparable to the burning itch for change in less important fields of government. So justice moves with ox-like tread in this age of the airplane.

ALBANY, N. Y.
NEWS

FEB 7 1934

A Lynching Verdict

THE state of Missuri started in earnestly to prosecute the lynchers of Lloyd Warner, Negro, but it got no farther than a jury. The state presented its strongest case first. Several witnesses identified the first defendant as being active in the lynching and witnesses testified also that the defendant boasted of his part in the lynching. The defendant, Walter Garton, was acquitted by the jury but he will be returned to Iowa Reformatory as a parole violator.

The attorney general of Missouri has made a statement saying that he is informed that the jury was made up of representative citizens of Buchanan County and in view of the verdict it would be useless to prosecute the other cases now pending.

Probably the attorney general is right and the other prosecutions would fail as did this, but we do not like to see justice so quickly discouraged. The jury, it appears, returned its verdict contrary to the evidence and considered other things besides the testimony. Obviously "representative citizens" of Buchanan County are opposed to penalizing persons who take the law into their own hands and they will not discountenance mob murder of a Negro. If that is "representative citizenship" there is nothing left to be said.

SUFFOLK, VA.
NEWS HERALD

FEB 7 1934

WHY LYNCHERS ARE IMMUNE

Out in St. Joseph, Mo., last November a Negro prisoner was taken from the county jail by a mob, hanged to a tree and his body riddled with bullets. The victim was a boy suspected of having committed a heinous crime. There had been no jury trial to fix the crime upon him and so according to our system of jurisprudence he was guilty of none because he had not been convicted. So incensed was the judge who presided over the court that he issued a burning indictment of lynch law and lynchers in general that electrified the country.

The grand jury, in compliance with the order of the court, quickly instituted an investigation. It was composed of some of the best and most conscientious citizens of the community. After summoning many witnesses the inquisitors brought in several indictments of persons supposed to have participated in the mob-killing. One of the accused went to trial on the charge of murder for his connection with the affair, and although he was prosecuted by the attorney general of Missouri and other state's attorneys the jury returned a verdict of not guilty. The state then requested dismissal of the others, seeing the futility of getting conviction and not caring to throw away time and money fruitlessly.

No doubt the St. Joseph jury returned the only verdict possible under the circumstances, because members of a lynching mob will perjure themselves deliberately to save their own skins and their associates in this form of criminality. On the other hand, citizens who may know some of the guilty parties refrain from making the fact known because to testify against their neighbors would not add to their personal popularity in the community. The reason why so many mobbings go unavenged is because too many people regard this form of public execution much as does Governor Rolph, of California. Lynchers are immune because too many people approve of this barbarous practice.

NEW YORK MIRROR

FEB 21 19

ONE JAIL TERM LYNCH OUTCOME

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Feb. 20 (UP).—The cases which grew out of the lynching last Fall of Lloyd Warner, confessed Negro attacker, were closed today with one short jail term, the net result of eight arrests. Carl (Cowboy) Fisher, who pleaded guilty to receiving stolen property, was sentenced to serve a year. Those charged with more serious offenses either were found not guilty or their cases were dropped.

x (1)

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

FEB 4 1934

COOK HELD IN LYNCHING NOT GUILTY OF MURDER

St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 3 (AP).—Walter Garton, cook, was found not guilty by a jury tonight on a charge of first degree murder in connection with the lynching of Lloyd Warner, colored, here Nov. 28.

The verdict was brought in after the jury had deliberated slightly less than an hour. The acquittal was voted on the first ballot.

Garton was returned immediately to jail where he is held on a charge of malicious destruction of property in connection with the lynching. His bond was set at $1,00

NEW YORK AMERICAN

FEB 4 1934

LYNCH MURDER SUSPECT FREED

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Feb. 3 (AP).—Walter Garton, 41, world war veteran and first of the defendants in the lynching of a Negro here Nov. 28 to go to trial, was acquitted by a jury tonight of a charge of first degree murder.

Garton and six others were indicted on murder charges growing out of the lynching of Lloyd Warner, 19, Negro, who was being held in jail on a charge of having attacked a young white woman.

Warner was hanged to a tree and burned with gasoline by a mob which overpowered the force of Sheriff Otto Theisen, policemen and a tank company of the Missouri National Guard ordered out by Governor Park. A crowd estimated at between 5,000 and 8,000 looked on.

The acquitted defendant, whose trial started Monday, was returned to his cell to await trial on another indictment charging him with malicious destruction of jail property.

LYNCHBURG, VA.
NEWS

FEB 9 1934

THE BALLYHOO IS OVER

A St. Joseph, Missouri, jury having acquitted the supposed ring leader of the mob of bloodthirsty men who lynched a Negro, the prosecuting attorney has decided to drop the matter. There will be no effort at prosecution of any other of the suspects. A jury of "best citizens," as the prosecutor calls them, has refused to convict in the strongest case the state had, and it is considered useless to proceed further.

So ends another effort at punishment of mass murders. So dies the usual ballyhoo from governor down about the majesty of the law, the horror of lynchings, the depravity of mobsters, the determination of authorities to see that justice is done and a stain on the state's escutcheon is wiped out. It dies, as usual, with nothing done.

One is left to wonder, however, whether all the fault is on "the best citizens." One wonders whether it will not be possible sometimes to get a jury in a civilized community to convict a lyncher if the prosecution showed the necessary ability, the necessary aggressiveness, the necessary thoroughness in gathering evidence and the necessary clarity in presenting it. The usual loud talk what the state is going to do is far from convincing in the fact of the fact that nearly always the state does nothing.

LEAVENWORTH, KANS.
TIMES

FEB 21 1934

St. Joseph closes its lynch case with the conviction of one of the members of the mob going to jail for a year on his plea of guilty to a charge of stealing the sheriff's revolver. Lynchings are always to be regretted, but it appears quite useless to attempt to punish those who engage in mob violence. In time sentiment against those who take part in lynchings may be awakened, but so far it has not been developed to the point where the law can step in and mete punishment.

(8)

PITTSBURG, KANS.
HEADLIGHT

FEB 20 1934

The lynchings cases at St. Joseph are being dismissed, ending the prosecution of men accused of participating in the mob which killed a Negro last November. Nobody expected anybody to be convicted but the point farthest north in bringing lynchers to justice was reached there. Men actually were indicted and one was brought to trial.

(9)

NEWS

Princess Anne Md

FEB 1934

MISSOURI LYNCH CASES TO BE DROPPED

Walter Garton, of St. Joseph, Missouri, a World War veteran, still faced prosecution in connection with the lynching of Lloyd Warner, colored, but was free of a first-degree murder charge by virtue of a jury's acqittal verdict Saturday night of last week.

Garton is charged with malicious destruction of property, officers contending that he helped to damage the county jail last November 28, when it was stormed by a mob.

Six others are under indictment, but Attorney-General Roy McKittrick said Garton's acquittal indicated that "it would be useless expense" to try the others. He reserved final decision, however.

Missouri,

4639

Lynchings-1934

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

GRAND JURY ASKS REMOVAL OF SHERIFF

Kansas City,

1-5-34

Three Charged With First Degree Murder; Bought And Poured Gasoline

BULLETIN

Roy McKittrick, attorney general, announced Wednesday that his office would not bring ouster proceedings against Sheriff Otto Theisen of Buchanan county.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo.—Complying with the charges made to it by Judge J. V. Gaddy when the probe of the Lloyd Warner lynching was begun, the Buchanan county grand jury returned 11 indictments Saturday, Dec. 30, charging persons it found participants in the orgy guilty of murder in the first degree and several minor charges.

Only four of the indictments were open, the other seven to be made public at the time of the arrest of the indicted persons who yet are unapprehended.

The grand jury condemned Sheriff Otto Theisen for his laxity in duty in turning over the boy to the mob and asked that he and other members of his office and of the police force who were negligent in duty be removed from office.

Three men were charged with first degree murder in the open indictments. They were Aaron Levin, 50, junk dealer; John F. Zook, 38, policeman and prize fighter; and Walter Garton, unemployed.

The fourth indictment was also against Garton who was charged with malicious destruction of property, the jury charging that he was one of those who fastened a chain to the jail door and pulled it down.

Poured Gasoline

Levin is said to be the person who obtained the gasoline in which Warner's body was soaked and Zook was accused of pouring the gas over the body.

Sheriff Theisen when informed of the grand jury's findings against him said that he had no statement to make as he had already informed the people through the newspapers of the action he had taken to prevent the mob and of his reasons for his actions.

It is believed here that he will not resign.

A no true bill was returned against Emery Donnelly, who had been held in jail for two weeks charged with first degree murder in connection with the lynching.

The jury returned its verdict Saturday afternoon seven hours and a half before it was to have been released from duty. At the conclusion of the report, made by Henry Krug, jury foreman, Judge J. V. Gaddy said that he was highly satisfied at the manner in which the jury had handled the cases.

"The men of this jury are the leading citizens of St. Joseph," he said, "most of them being in business here. They realize fully what responsibility rests with them in making these indictments and I appreciate their fortitude in doing their duty as citizens."

Judge Gaddy won the respect of the nation when he charged the grand jury, when it set out to investigate the lynching, to indict with first degree murder all persons who were found to be active participants in the lynching.

To Trial This Month

The grand jury, in addition to recommending to removal of Sheriff Theisen and his officers, urged that the Buchanan county jail be made mob proof by the installation of a revolving, high pressure water nozzle on top of the jail to be used in repelling mob action.

The lynching cases are set up for the January term of court which opened Tuesday, Jan. 2. The cases will be docketed at the convenience of Assistant Attorney General Sawyers who has been conducting a probe here since the lynching.

Sawyers said this week that it probably would be the latter part of the month before the trials could be held as he has several cases now before the state supreme court.

The full text of the grand jury's report follows:

"In this county recently there was dramatized a mob lynching scene, of which the horrifying and dreadful details shall ever blot the record for efficiency of Buchanan county officials. Responsibility for the scene rests three ways: First on failure of the sheriff and police officers under his command at the time to provide protection to those under his care.

"Secondly, on the active participants in the lynching activities.

"Thirdly, on those bystanders who, by their presence lent encouragement to the lynchers, and through inactivity lent no assistance to the defenseless victim.

Sheriff Lax in Duties

"The sheriff is an official sworn to perform his duties. A particular and primary function of the office is to provide the protection to those under his charge. This protection was not given. In justification of his action in delivering the victim to the mob his plea is that the jail is considered impregnable to mob violence. In an emergency, however, it proved otherwise. In light of that experience, neither the shriff nor the police officers are free from responsibility in this grave matter.

"We request that steps be taken to cause the resignation from their offices and positions of the sheriff and members of the police force who failed in their duty at that time. The mob scene could have been averted by adopting early effective measures. Much censure applying to press reports in daily papers following immediately the victim's crime has been reported as a contributing cause of the assembling of curiosity sightseers at the jail, which, assembling in the early evening, should have been prevented, the sidewalks and highways kept cleared by the sheriff and police.

"Let Officials Play Man"

"Let the court do its duty. Let the governor do his duty. Let sworn officials perform their duty and see to it that crime be punished in the civilized way and that punishment for crime be sure, quick, commensurate. Let sworn officials play the man at all times and have the courage to stand firm to the last (no matter how the pack howls) against the tryanny of the mob.

"The expanding problem of mob violence is not otherwise to be arrested."

Before returning the indictments, the grand jury made public this statement to the court:

"In the lynching of Lloyd Warner we wish to state that our act should not be taken as final in closing the investigation of this inhuman orgy, but we feel that only a beginning has been made which should be pursued further by the law enforcing agencies of the state and county and wherever the facts would justify other arrests and prosecutions than those already in progress we earnestly suggest that all guilty parties be speedily brought to justice."

Members of the grand jury were: Henry Krug, chairman of the board of directors of American National bank, foreman; J. J. Sweeney, Easton, farmer; George Hunt, vice-president of Hunt Brothers Fruit company; Robert W. McDonald, retired, former treasurer of R. L. McDonald Manufacturing company; Walter Neudorff, insurance; Charles J. Schenecker, president of Burnes National bank; George Wilbur, retired, former master mechanic for Burlington railroad; Frank Spear, secretary-treasurer of the St. Joseph Transfer company; Duncan Ray, farmer; Melvin Binswanger of Binswanger Brothers, investment securities; E. B. Newcombe, insurance; Leo Knaebel, secretary of Missouri Valley Trust company.

Call

KANSAS CITY, KANS.
KANSAN
JAN 3 1934

Prosecuting a Mob

The vigorous action of the Buchanan county grand jury in drawing up indictments in connection with the recent St Joseph, Mo., lynching lends credence to that city's protests that members of the lynching mob were not typical of the good citizenry of St. Joseph.

Members of the grand jury were prominent, representative citizens of the city Their answer to the shocking display of lawlessness was indictments against eight men accused of participation in the mob and a recommendation for the discharge of the officers who failed to prevent the mob from carrying out its intentions.

Mobs are the most difficult of all to prosecute. Yet where lynchings occur commonly nothing whatever is done toward prosecution. The consequence is that persons participate in mobs with no thought of any personal consequences. Yet the crime strikes at the roots of law and order. If there is not resulting prosecution the law is shown to have broken down completely.

If the example of the grand jury is followed at St. Joseph this will have been one episode that was an exception to an all too general rule.

ACQUITTAL ENDS LYNCHING TRIAL

~~Telegraph~~

Walter Garton, Accused of Complicity in Mob Murder of Negro, Found Not Guilty

2-4-34

Macon Ga

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Feb. 3 (AP)—Walter Garton, cook, was found not guilty by a jury in Buchanan county circuit court tonight on a charge of first degree murder in connection with the lynching of Lloyd Warner, Negro, here Nov. 28.

The verdict was brought in after the jury had deliberated slightly less than an hour. The acquittal was voted on the first ballot.

Garton was returned immediately to jail where he is being held on a charge of malicious destruction of property in connection with the lynching. His bond was set at $1,000.

"President Franklin D. Roosevelt is sitting in Washington right now awaiting your verdict," William O. Sawyers, assistant attorney general of Missouri, told the jury in the closing argument for the state.

"It is the wish of our president that law and order be restored in this land. You gentlemen can by your verdict say whether Missouri stands with the president.

"Lynching is a national evil today. Your verdict will do much to help restore that respect for law and order so badly needed."

"The victim of this lynching should have been hanged," Sawyers declared, but added that the Negro should have been hanged "in a legal manner."

Defense counsel had sought only two instructions, first degree murder or acquittal.

Alleged Lyncher Freed By Missouri Jury

Atlanta Constitution

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Feb. 3.—(AP)—Walter Garton, cook, was found not guilty by a jury in Buchanan county circuit court tonight on a charge of first-degree murder in connection with the lynching of Lloyd Warner, negro, here November 28.

2-4-34

The verdict was brought in after the jury had deliberated slightly less than an hour. The acquittal was voted on the first ballot.

Garton was returned immediately to jail where he is being held on a charge of malicious destruction of property in connection with the lynching. His bond was set at $1,000.

Atlanta Ga

Two state's witnesses, Police Patrolman W. J. McGinnis and John Zook, former patrolman, testified that Garton was active in the mob that broke into the county jail, seized Warner and hanged him to a tree and burned his body.

Defense witnesses testified they did not see Garton among the mob leaders. Garton himself did not take the stand.

MOB MEMBER HELD IN JAIL SINCE BURNING

the cafe

~~2-4-34~~

Missouri Anxious to Convict Garton for Death of Lloyd Warner

2-2-34

ST. JOSEPH, Mo.—Trial of Walter Garton, charged with murder in the lynching of Lloyd Warner, here November 28, got under way Wednesday morning before Judge J. V. Gaddy. The complete jury panel was selected Tuesday.

Kansas City Times

William Orr Sawyers, first assistant attorney general, is in charge of the prosecution and has as his associate, Franklin Reagan, assistant attorney general.

Jury Selected Tuesday

The selection of a jury to try Garton, who is also charged with malicious destruction of property, is aided in the selection of the began Monday morning. Sawyers jury by Frank Kirtley, prosecuting attorney and W. J. Sherwood, his assistant.

2-3-34

Many of the jurors qualified when they said that they were witnesses at the lynching of Warner but only by accident. The [illegible] Whitlow, 6011 Lookout [illegible] first juror to qualify was [illegible] father of six daughters and one son. He was qualified after more than an hour of examination by the state and defense, during which time such questions as to his religious belief, and the extent which he reads daily newspapers were asked.

It was just two months ago Monday—the day after a mob hanged and burned the alleged attacker of a white girl—that the state started its investigation of the matter.

Both state and defendant answered ready to Jude Gaddy Monday morning a few minutes after the cases of Aaron Levin and John F. Zook, also charged with murder as a result of the lynching investigation, were continued to the May term of court.

Carton was clad in overalls, a blue shirt and a gray coat when he entered the courtroom. He has been in the jail since several days following the lynching.

Counsel for Defendant

William C. Meyer and Otto Imbersteg represent Garton, being retained for him by friends.

Kay Porter represented Zook, a former St. Joseph police officer, in obtaining the continuance, while William Stone and DuVal Smith represented Levin. In both instances the state, through Sawyers, readily agreed to the continuances.

An order showing that William C. Cole has withdrawn as attorney for Jack Hamer, also charged with the lynching, was placed on the court records Monday. Homer C. King will represent Hamer now.

Zook, who had been in jail nearly two months, was released under $10,000 bond Monday afternoon. The bond was signed by James F. Zook, his father, Hugh Moyer and Attorney Porter.

New York Evening Post

FEB 5 1934

Missouri Halts Prosecution of Lynch Suspects

6 Indicted to Go Free as Result of Acquittal in First Trial

"STRONGEST CASE" LOST

Attorney General Believes It Would Be Useless to Spend Money on Others

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Feb. 5 (AP).—No further attempts will be made by the State of Missouri to obtain convictions against persons charged with murder in the lynching of Lloyd Warner, Negro, in St. Joseph November 28, Attorney General Roy McKittrick announced today.

The announcement was made after McKittrick had conferred with two assistants, William O. Sawyers and Franklin Reagan, and Frank L. Kirtley, prosecuting attorney at St. Joseph, who presented the State's case against Walter Garton which resulted in acquittal by a jury Saturday night.

Six other alleged leaders of the mob that broke into the county jail, hanged the Negro and burned his body, are under indictment for first degree murder. Warner was accused of attacking a white girl.

State's Strongest Case

"I am convinced that the case of the State of Missouri versus Walter Garton was the State's strongest case," McKittrick said.

"I am informed the jury was a group of good representative citizens of Buchanan County, and in view of the verdict of not guilty it would be useless to spend more money in prosecuting the other cases now pending in the Buchanan County Circuit Court."

Damage Charge Stands

ST. JOSEFH, Mo., Feb. 5 (AP).—Walter Garton, World War veteran, today still faced prosecution in connection with the lynching of Lloyd Warner, a Negro, but was freed of a first degree murder charge by virtue of an acquittal verdict Saturday night.

Garton, a cook, is charged with malicious destruction of property, officers contending he aided in damaging the Buchanan County Jail.

Defer Washington Hearing

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (AP). — A long list of witnesses who have asked to testify on the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill was announced today by Chairman Van Nuys, of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee which is considering the measure.

At the same time Van Nuys said the hearing had been postponed from February 15 to February 20 and 21, because some of the witnesses could not appear until that time.

Although Governors Ritchie of Maryland and Rolph of California were invited to testify, their names were not on the list because the committee had not heard from them.

NEW YORK WORLD-Telegram

FEB 5 1934

MOB ACTION DROPPED

Missouri to Try No More in Lynching of Negro.

By the Associated Press.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Feb. 5.—No further attempts will be made by this State to obtain convictions against persons charged with murder in the lynching of Lloyd Warner, Negro, in St. Joseph November 28, Attorney General Roy McKittrick announced today. Walter Garton was acquitted by a jury Saturday night.

Six other alleged leaders on the mob are under indictment.

TEN LYNCHING CASES DROPPED

Argus 2-9-34

First Defendant In St. Joseph Lynching Is Acquited.

JURY OUT 59 MINUTES

St. Louis

Gruesome Pictures Given Of Brutal Mob Slaying.

By WILEY BURTON

ST. JOSEPH, MO., Feb. 8.—All semblance of justice was dealt a rude slap in the face and the supremacy of law enforcement made a farce, speaking figuratively but in all sincerity. Such was the view of most observers of the State's prosecution in the lynching of Lloyd Warner, 18-year-old youth, Nov. 28, which utterly fell flat. It was decided to abandoned ten pending cases when Walter Garton, cook, was acquitted of a first degree murder indictment Saturday after but 59 minutes' deliberation by a jury in Circuit Judge J. V. Gaddy's court. Atty. Gen. McKittrick was reported to have stated that the case against him was the strongest and it would be useless to spend more money to press the indictments returned against the others by a special grand jury.

About all that came of the trial was the return of Garton to the reformatory of Aanamosa, Ia., as a parole violator to complete a five-year sentence for robbery.

Tells of Crime

Vivid descriptions of the gruesome lynching, with Garton occupying the center of the scenes, were given on the witness stand by John Zook, a former policeman who was among those under indictment but denied taking part in the lynching. He related how Warner was dragged from the jail by the mob; then how he was stabbed, mauled, hanged, burned, stomped and how the head was almost torn from the charred remains.

Harold Slater, reporter for the News-Press, told of talking with Warner in his cell before the mob's attack. He said the youth emphatically denied have attacked a white woman. He also related how one officer came to hand him over to the mob and said:

"Come on out nigger, we're going to give you up."

An alibi was offered by Garton that he was working at a cafe at the time the lynching took place. Discrepencies were, however, found in the time given by a defending witness, who said Garton was substituting for him on his job.

Nebraska

4640

Lynchings - 1934
6
Legal Punishment of Lynchers
6

LINCOLN, NEB.
EVE. STATE JOURNAL

FEB 21 1934

A plan for fining a county in which a lynching takes place is being discussed in congress. The penalty would be $10,000. Since it is almost impossible to detect and punish the instigators of lynching this device might place the responsibility for guarding against such crimes on all the people in the county. At the same time it does not protect residents of neighboring counties. A band of lynchers, traveling in automobiles as is customary, could slip across a county line and hang the victim and escape with little difficulty. Then the neighboring county would have the responsibility for the crime without being guilty of the offense.

Oklahoma.

Lynchings - 1934
6

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.
6

4722

Oklahoma City, Okla.
TIMES

SEP 10 1934

Murray Grants Full Pardon To Lynching Fugitive

Employer Recommends That Clemency Be Given.

John V. Harris, fugitive from the state penitentiary more than ten years, will not be returned from Sioux City, Iowa, to finish a life term for murder.

A full pardon for Harris, 41 years old, was signed Monday by Governor Murray.

Harris was committed to the Oklahoma prison April 26, 1922, after being convicted in Oklahoma county in the lynching of Jake Brooks, Negro packing plant employe. The hanging resulted from a strike of packing plant employes here. He was granted a leave of absence in 1923.

Frank I. Clark, of the Armour & Co packing plant at Sioux City, wrote the governor stating that Harris had been employed steadily at the Armour plant for the last 10 years, that his two sons likewise are employed there, and that he is a law-abiding citizen and industrious employe.

Other acts of clemency:

Mary Higgins Woods, committed Dec. 9, 1933, to serve one year from Blaine county for bigamy, paroled.

Bill Covington, sentenced to 30 days and a $50 fine in Garvin county for prohibition law violation, paroled.

Charlie Chastain, serving 90 days and $100 fine for liquor law violation in McIntosh county, granted leave of absence to October 15.

Obel McManus, committed April 28, 1931, to serve 25 years from Kiowa county for statutory offense, granted leave of absence until Sept. 1, 1936.

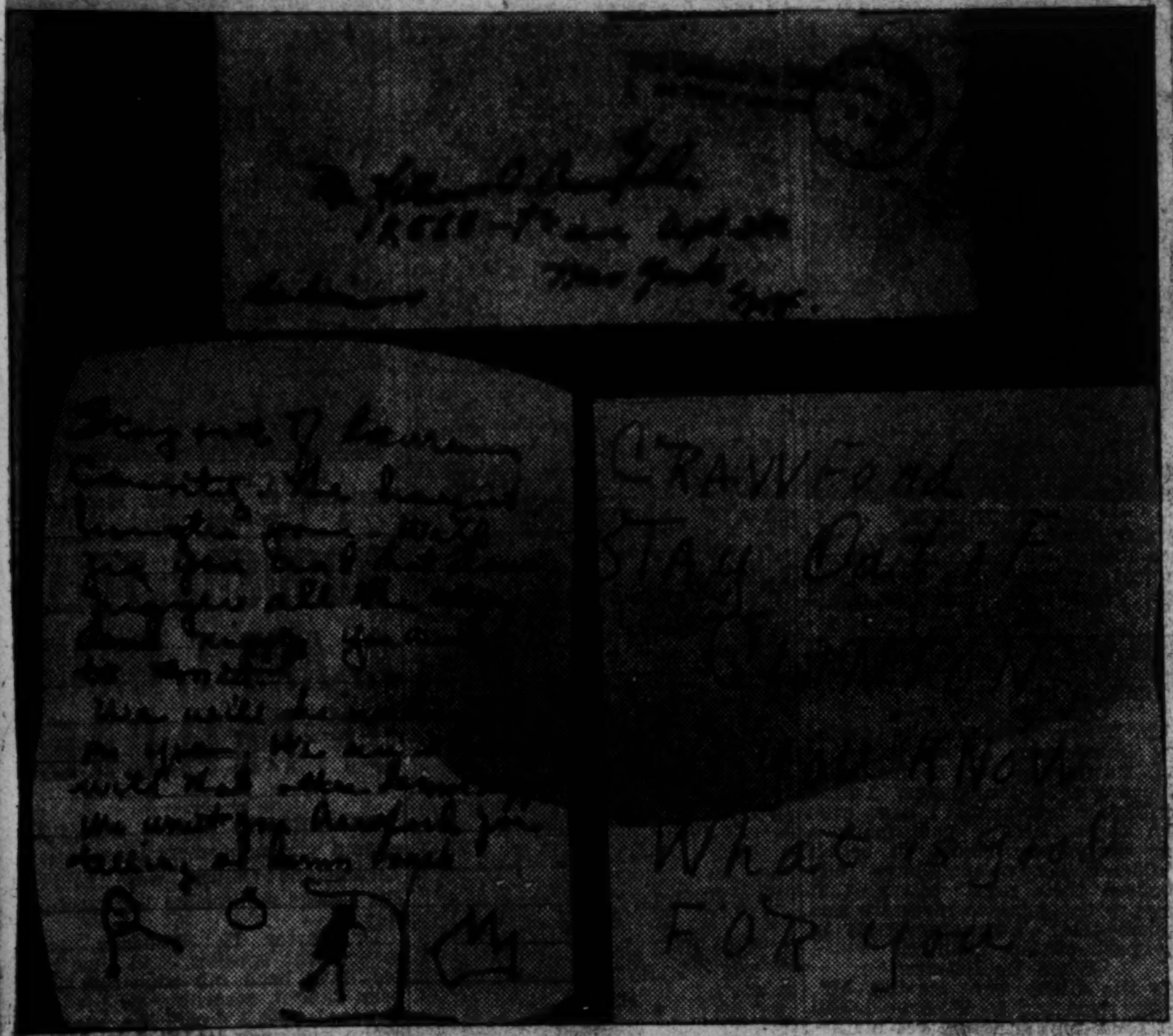
Lynchings- 1934

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

South Carolina

4641

Death Letter Keeps Lynch Witness Out of S.C.


CRAWFord
STAy Out of
[illegible]
KNOW
What is good
FOR you

Facsimile of the anonymous letter threatening death to William Crawford, one of the important witnesses of the lynching of Norris Dendy at Clinton, S.C., on July 4, 1933, if he rethrned to the state. Receipt of a similar letter by Clara Bell Peake, another witness, halted the testimony in person of them and Ernest Mims, before the Laurens County grand jury last week in South Carolina. The grand jury however, already has in its possession the information possessed by the three witnesses, who were sent to Clinton last February 20, at the expense of the N.A.A.C.P.

In a letter enclosing a photostatic copy of the death letter addressed to Crawford and urging prompt action in the matter, Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. secretary, has written Governor Ibra C. Blackwood of South Carolina, declaring that, "It is becoming increasingly evident that certain of the officials of South Carolina and of Laurens County are determined to do nothing to bring to justice the known lynchers of Norris Dendy.

The letter further points out that South Carolina has failed to act for eleven months, thus supplying additional evidence of the necessity for a federal anti-lynching law.

COLUMBIA, S. C.
RECORD

JUN 15 1934

BUT NOT TO A CONCLUSION.

The action of the Laurens grand jury, returning "no true bill" on the indictments brought against five men charged with slaying Norris Dendy, negro, who was taken from the Clinton jail July 4, 1933, and killed, may have written finis to the case, as the Associated Press says. Other cases have ended that way.

But this ought not to be the end. For Norris Dendy is still dead. He was alive July 4, 1933, when he was arrested following a dispute with a white man and placed in the Clinton jail. Had he been tried he would be alive; he was not even charged with any capital crime. But July 5, 1933, he was dead. They found his body a few miles out of town. Somebody—"parties unknown" to the coroner's jury—had taken him from the jail where the officers of Clinton in the name of South Carolina were holding him. It was, the governor of South Carolina said, murder. It is still murder—unpunished murder.

And murder is a serious crime against the peace and dignity of the state. In this case it is all the more serious because the man slain was an unarmed person, the prisoner of Laurens county officers and of South Carolina. The grand jury—and this is not to question the wisdom of the grand jury's decision on the indictments presented to it—can not end it; if there was not enough evidence against the persons indicted to convince the grand jury, hearing only the prosecution, that the case against them should even be tried then the obligation still rests as it did a year ago upon the officers of Clinton, Laurens county and South Carolina to discover the real perpetrators of the crime and to bring them to trial and punishment. Other murders have been solved in South Carolina. And the arrest trial and conviction of the slayers is the only tolerable end of a murder case.

Norris Dendy of course is beyond aid; he is dead and nothing the courts can do can help him. But Laurens county and South Carolina are not beyond

elp. Theey need not surrender to murder—unless
ey want to.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
NEWS

DEC 30 1934

Neither Fish Nor Fowl.

On July 4, 1933, a group of men yanked a Negro out of the jail at Clinton, South Carolina, proceeding thereafter to beat him, choke him and finally to kill him. Properly incensed, and with the knowledge that the Negro's crime had been only a misdemeanor, Governor Blackwood cried that this was no lynching, "it was murder."

Last week the board of commissioners for Laurens county, on the advice of the county attorney, refused to pay a claim for $2,000 filed by the relatives of the dead man. Basis for the claim was a South Carolina law making a county liable for $2,000 to the estate of a lynched person. Basis of the county's refusal was, in all probability, a convenient distinction between a lynching and a murder.

Hence the county is put in the unenviable position of denying its responsibility both to the relatives of the dead man, if he was lynched, and to all of its citizens, if he was murdered. The grand jury recessed long after the event without bringing in any indictments, and it is safe to assume that the whole affair is, so far as the county is concerned, a thing of the past.

But a lesson may come out of it yet, in the form of a supreme court decision that it is a lynching, and a murder too, when a person is taken from the hands of, or while being sought by, agencies of the law. Certainly it would

K. K. K. LYNCHERS ARE FREED IN DIXIE

11-15-34 Courier

GREENVILLE, S. C., Nov. 8—(ANP)—Six white men, indicted as members of a Ku Klux band which killed George Green last November, were found not guilty in General Sessions Court here Saturday.

Courier

After the murder of Green, seventeen whites were arrested.

11-20-34

It was charged that they belonged to the Ku Klux Klan which had been employed by a landlord to force Green, a tenant, off a piece of property.

Pittsburgh

The klansmen came to the home of the 70-year-old Green at night, called him to the door and shot him down as his wife looked on.

CHARLESTON, S. C.
NEWS AND COURIER

DEC 16 1934

Queer Reasoning

The contention is set up by Greenville county that a man done to death by masked men within its borders was not "lynched" because he had been charged with no offence and that, therefore, his widow cannot recover $2,000 from the county, under the statute relating to lynching. Thus Greenville county is placed in the position of saying that a mob can kill an innocent man without the county incurring a penalty but that if a mob kill a kidnaper and murderer or one committing "the crime against womanhood" the county should pay damages to his widow. If Greenville county would be content to save $2,000 by that legalistic reasoning, surely the court should intervene in its behalf, or the money should be raised by subscription to reimburse the Greenville county treasury. It is a pretty come-to-pass when a wealthy county sets up that the mob-murder of an innocent man is a smaller crime than the lynching of the worst of villains.

CHARLESTON, S. C.
NEWS AND COURIER

DEC 20 1934

'An Unfair Criticism'

(From the Greenville News)

In an editorial very appropriately headed "Queer Reasoning," The News and Courier tries to make it appear that Greenville county, in opposing the $2,000 judgment for the alleged "lynching" of one George Green, is setting up "that the mob-murder of an innocent man is a smaller crime than the lynching of the worst of villains."

Why not be fair, contemporary, and try to prevent your prejudices from leading you into such rabidly illogical and untrue statements? Greenville's county attorney simply makes the contention that the victim in this case was not "lynched". The law imposes upon the county an obligation to pay $2,000 in the event of a lynching, but obviously it does not require the county to pay a sum of money to dependents of any and every person who may be murdered within the county, even though the crime may be committed by a group of citizens. Our contemporary says: "Thus Greenville county is placed in the position of saying that a mob can kill an innocent man without the county incurring a penalty, but that if a mob kill a kidnaper and murderer or one committing 'the crime against womanhood,' the county should pay damages to his widow."

This is an adroit way of evading the real issue involved, which is that of whether or not the crime under consideration is a "lynching." Will the News and Courier contend that any time any person is murdered in Charleston by a group of persons large enough to be regarded as a "mob," Charleston county must forthwith pay $2,000 to the dependents of the victim? If a gang of hoodlums should attack and kill one of its citizens, for purposes of robbery or some other such reason, would an obligation rest upon the Charleston county treasury to pay out $2,000 to his widow? Would the News and Courier say that was a "lynching?"

Lynching is usually defined to mean the imposition of death upon a person by citizens who take the law into their own hands and inflict punishment for a crime or alleged crime as a substitute for the processes of the courts. The victim may be innocent or guilty. The crime does not necessarily have to be committed by a "mob," as that term is ordinarily defined. This penalty required by state law is intended to discourage lynching by penalizing the taxpayers for the failure of their officers of the law to protect a prisoner or person charged with crime from such acts. Certainly it can hardly be held that the county is under such liability for a cash payment in the event of any murder committed by a group of persons; if that were the case what would be the sense in requiring the payment only when several murderers were involved and paying nothing when the crime was committed by only one person?

The Greenville case involves only the question of whether the killing of Green was or was not a lynching; and our contemporary's slurs at Greenville county for seeking final adjudication of the point are in bad taste and thoroughly unfair.

Charlotte, N. C., News
December 30, 1934

Neither Fish Nor Fowl.

On July 4, 1933, a group of men yanked a Negro out of the jail at Clinton, South Carolina, proceeding thereafter to beat him, choke him and finally to kill him. Properly incensed, and with the knowledge that the Negro's crime had been only a misdemeanor, Governor Blackwood cried that this was no lynching, "it was murder."

Last week the board of commissioners for Laurens county, on the advice of the county attorney, refused to pay a claim for $2,000 filed by the relatives of the dead man. Basis for the claim was a South Carolina law making a county liable for $2,000 to the estate of a lynched person. Basis of the county's refusal was, in all probability, a convenient distinction between a lynching and a murder.

Hence the county is put in the unenviable position of denying its responsibility both to the relatives of the dead man, if he was lynched, and to all of its citizens, if he was murdered. The grand jury recessed long after the event without bringing in any indictments, and it is safe to assume that the whole affair is, so far as the county is concerned, a thing of the past.

But a lesson may come out of it yet; in the form of a supreme court decision that it is a lynching, and a murder too, when a person is taken from the hands of, or while being sought by, agencies of the law. Certainly it would please us if the alternatives allowed to Laurens county were either to fork over the lynch money or produce the murderers.

Lynchings-1934
&
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

South Carolina

4642

INDICT 6 AS NIGHTRIDERS

Grand Jury Acts to Check Wave of Terrorism

GREENVILLE, S. C., Jan. 11.—(INS)—A Greenville County grand jury struck swiftly today at a resumption of night riding terrorism, indicting six alleged members of a masked, robed band for the murder of an aged negro, and a seventh as an accessory.

1-12-34

True bills named C. M. Suttles, J. D. Dailey, G. L. Smith, H. J. Duncan, W. B. [illegible] and E. W. Davis as the slayers of George Green, negro. C. J. James was charged as an accessory.

New York Times
JAN 2 1934
S.C.

CAROLINA INDICTS FOUR FOR LYNCHING

Murder Charges Are Brought for the Beating of Negro Taken From Jail.

①

TO ACT IN MISSOURI CASE

Officials Will Weigh Prosecution After Indictment of 11—Tennessee Inquiry Is Set.

GREENWOOD, S. C., Jan. 1 (AP).—Indictments charging murder were returned today against four men in the fatal beating Oct. 8 of Bennie Thompson, Negro, after he was taken from a jail at Ninety Six.

The men named are Burley Leppard, Clarence Mayes, Kenneth Morris and Howard Webb. Solicitor Homer S. Blackwood said tonight the trials would not be called at the present term of court.

When court recessed no report had been made on a bill of indictment drawn against J. Calvin Rush, former police chief of Ninety Six, charged with being an accessory before the fact. Rush was not held by the coroner's jury and has never been arrested.

Act to Prosecute 11 in Missouri.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Jan. 1 (AP).—Following a grand jury's voting of eleven indictments in the lynching Nov. 28 of Lloyd Warner, a Negro, and a recommendation that Sheriff Otto Theisen and members of the Police Department, which yielded to the mob, be ousted, Prosecutor Frank L. Kirtley will confer with Criminal Judge J. V. Gaddy tomorrow regarding possible action.

Sheriff Theisen said: "I have no intention of resigning." Charles A. Enos, Chief of Police, declined comment.

The names of only three of those indicted were made public. The three, all charged with first-degree murder, were Aaron Levin, junk dealer; John Zook, former policeman and wrestler, and Walter Garton, a cook.

Warner, 19, was charged with assault on a white girl. He was surrendered by the Sheriff and aids after a long fight in which much damage was done to the jail and the Sheriff's living quarters in the jail building.

The Negro was hanged in a tree near the jail, his body saturated with gasoline and ignited. Governor Park called out National Guardsmen.

Sheriff Theisen said evidence to be introduced at the trials of several persons indicted on murder charges by the grand jury would "justify my course" as well as that of police criticized in the jury's report.

Instructs Tennessee Grand Jury.

NASHVILLE, Jan. 1 (AP).—A new county grand jury was given special instructions today to investigate the recent abduction and lynching of Cord Cheek, 19-year-old Negro, and to "promptly indict" the perpetrators if their identity could be determined.

Cheek was hanged Dec. 15 in Maury County, near Columbia, after that county's grand jury had failed to return an indictment, following his arrest on a charge of attempting to attack a white girl. He had been held in the Nashville jail, but was released when the Maury grand jury failed to act. He was abducted here a few hours after his release.

In his charge, Criminal Judge Charles Gilbert called the affair "one of the most flagrant and outrageous violations of the law ever committed or partly committed in Davidson County."

"I want you to exercise your inquisitorial power to the fullest extent," Judge Gilbert continued, "to determine what acts in connection therewith transpired in Davidson County and who the perpetrators were, and to promptly indict such person or persons.

"I can readily understand the difficulty that you will experience in obtaining testimony, because of the very nature of the offense, but regardless of this I want you to know that you will have every assistance the court can give you in making a sincere and vigorous effort to apprehend the guilty parties."

Confess Attack Near Memphis.

MEMPHIS, Jan. 1 (AP).—Detective Inspector Will T. Griffin said today that three Negroes, accused of attacking a 17-year-old Mississippi girl near here Wednesday, had signed written confessions. He identified the three under arrest as Ernest McGhee, 23; Johnny Jones, 23, and Isaac Howard, 25. All live here.

A knife, identified by G. A. Collins of New Albany, Miss., the girl's uncle, as one taken from him by the Negroes who attacked his niece, was found on McGhee, Inspector Griffin said.

Columbia, S. C. Record
February 9, 1934

PROBE GOES ON IN LYNCH CASE

A statement from the Governor's office Friday indicated that officers would continue to investigate the lynching of Norris Dendy, at Clinton, until the guilty persons are apprehended.

Asked what progress officers were making, Charles H. Gerald, secretary to Governor Blackwood, said "they are still working on the case."

Dendy was forcibly removed from the building and killed after being beaten by several men.

The governor's office has only three full-time constables and officers, but all of them have been working on the case from time to time. The officers are Fred Newman, J. W. Richardson and C. Lee Melton.

True Bills Found In Negro Slaying

⑥

Telegraph

Five Clinton, S. C., Men Indicted in Death of Norris Dendy

2-20-34

LAURENS, S. C., Feb. 19 (AP)—Murder indictments against five Clinton men were handed the Laurens county grand jury today as it began an inquiry into the slaying last July 4 of Norris Dendy, 33-year-old Negro who was taken from the Clinton jail and beaten to death.

The jury considered the case about two hours but had taken no action when it recessed for the day.

The indictments, drawn and presented by Solicitor Homer S. Blackwell named the following: Marvin Collis, who is alleged to have been in a fight with Dendy a short time before the Negro was arrested as a result of the fray: P. M. Pitts, Hubert Pitts, Roy Pitts and J. Pitts Ray.

Negro witnesses at the inquest and before the grand jury today were protected from possible molestation by state highway patrolmen.

The grand jury investigation climaxed a probe that began after Dendy's body, badly beaten, was found on the Calhoun highway near Sardis, the day after the Negro was placed in the lockup. In addition to local authorities, a constable has been working on the case by direction of Governor Blackwood.

Grand Jury Postpones Action In S. C. Lynching

Age

3-3-34

LAURENS, S. C.—The grand jury which met here Monday, February 19 postponed action in the Noris Dendy lynching, saying the matter should be investigated further.

Evidence indicating that some of the police officers of Clinton, S. C., were in the mob which took Dendy from the jail last July 4 and lynched him was collected by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and by Robert Dendy, brother of the lynched man, who lives in New York City.

New York

Two witnesses ot the taking of Dendy from the jail were sent back here to testify Monday before the grand jury at the expense of the New York office of the N. A. A. C. P. They are Miss Clarabelle Peak and Wm. Crawford. Several weeks ago the N. A. A. C. P. filed their affidavits with Governor Ibra C. Blackwood and on Monday they told their story while being guarded by officers named by the governor's office, who were under direction of Detective Fred Newman.

Both Miss Peak and Crawford now live in New York. Ernest Mimms, another witness, who made an affidavit, but who refused to go back to South Carolina to testify even after Governor Blackwood had promised protection lives in Washington. All left Clinton after the lynching. Crawford left by "invitation" and strong hint that he "knew too much."

The affidavits, drawn up in New York, positively identified several well known men in Clinton and at least two police officers as being in the crowd which took Dendy from the Clinton jail, beat him, loaded him into a car and carried him to the outskirt of the town and lynched him. Dendy had had an agreement with a white truck driver and had struck him.

The N. A. A. C. P. and Mr. Dendy sent a white investigator into Clinton who secured the whole background of the lynhcing.

CONTINUE DENDY LYNCH PROBE AS FLA. QUIZ FLOPS

Called "Lynch Lawyers," Attorneys Reap Harvest

Journal & Guide

In Florida where the governor recently promised a committee of Southern white women he would prevent all future lynchings if given two hours notice, the lynching of Robert Johnson will go without redress as the result of a verdict brought in by a Hillborough County grand jury which conducted an "investigation" into the affair.

In Tuscaloosa, Ala., where echoes of the famous Dan Pipper case have not altogether died, two white attorneys, Jack McGuire and Charles LaFrances, who became indignant when an International Labor Defense telegram branded them as "lynch lawyers," settled their suit against the telegraph company out of court.

About the only one of the lynching probes being conducted in various parts of the country which gives any promise of not being a whitewash is the one being conducted in Laurens, S. C., into the Norris Dendy lynching which occurred last July 4, Independence Day. The grand jury last week postponed action pending further investigation. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is the power behind the throne in this probe.

WHAT MORE COULD BE EXPECTED?

TAMPA, Fla.—(ANP)—"In the usual sense of the term," a Hillsborough County grand jury declared, it found "no evidence" of a mob in the lynching of Robert Johnson here January 30, as he was being transferred to the county jail.

As per custom the grand jury reported that it had found no evidence on which to return an indictment, but condemned the practice of transferring prisoners "at unusual hours of the night."

This was taken in some quarters to mean, that more of a crowd could gather in the daylight. Most lynchers, the women and children go to bed early hereabouts.

A FAINT RAY OF HOPE

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Two witnesses to the taking of Dendy from the jail were sent back here to testify February [illegible] before the grand jury at the expense of the New York office of the N. A. A. C. P. They are Miss Clara Belle Peak and William Crawford. Several weeks ago the N. A. A. C. P. filed their affidavits with Governor Ibra C. Blackwood and on Monday they told their story while being guarded by persons named by the governor's office who were under direction of Detective Fred Newman.

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CHARLESTON, S. C.
NEWS

FEB 21 1934

Not "Hushed Up"

When men are indicted for murder it is a step in the direction of law enforcement whether they be convicted or not. The investigation of the killing of the negro Dendy in Clinton last year has stripped the crime of its falsely imputed character of a "lynching". The accused persons may be innocent—one hopes that persons charged with heinous crime may be able to clear themselves of the charge. They are entitled to the usual presumption of innocence until proved guilty and so declared by a jury. That is law—and good law.

It is victory for law in South Carolina that this crime has not been "hushed up". Somebody committed it. There has been a notion that a "lynching" is not the shameful thing that common murder is, a notion born in ignorance and sometimes encouraged by demagogues who believe in the spreading of ignorance for the sake of political advantage.

When all men shall know that in South Carolina a "lynching", actual or so-called, will be the subject of energetic inquiry, lynching will come to end. The inconvenience to which alleged lynchers have been put in the last thirty years has greatly reduced the occurrence of the crime in South Carolina. We are living in a better state on this account because D. C. Heyward was governor and solicitors of the stamp of Leon Harris and Homer Blackwell have improved the character of public opinion—Harris when he was solicitor did a man's work in an Oconee case.

WARNING IS DELIVERED IN LETTER

Post Office Dept. Is Asked To Trace Threat Senders

CLITON, S. C.—Fearing further testimony by Negro witnesses of the lynching on July 4, 1933, of Norris Dendy at Clinton at the forthcoming hearing of the grand jury, persons evidently implicated in the mob murder mailed from Woodruff, S. C., a death threat letter to Miss Clara Belle Peak, warning her and the other two witnesses, Ernest Mims and George Crawford, "to lay off . . . or this is what you get."

At the bottom of the unsigned letter was drawn a skull and crossbones and a sketch of a figure hanging from a tree.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which has been actively engaged in prosecuting the lynchers, has submitted photostatic copies of the lynch letter to the chief inspector of the Post Office Department, Washington, D. C., urging him to locate and prosecute the sender of the anonymous leter. The attorney general of South Carolina has also been sent a photostatic copy of the death message as evidence of the danger facing the witnesses.

He has been asked the exact date of the June sitting of the Laurens County grand jury, what further efforts the state is making toward pressing action against the lynchers, and what extra precautions will be taken to protect the witnesses if they are returned to the state to testify.

In a telegram to Governor Ibra C. Blackwood of South Carolina, Walter White, secretary of the N. A. C. P. last Friday asked whether the Laurens County grand jury will meet on June 11 to consider the Dendy case, whether the jury will require the presence of Mr Mims as a witness, and if so whether his safety will be guaranteed by the governor.

At the grand jury meeting on February 19, 1934, Miss Peake and two other witnesses submitted testimony identifying several well known citizens of Clinton, including two police officers, as the lynchers of Dendy. Because of previous threats against their lives, they returned in February to testify only after assurance of safe conduct from Governor Blackwood.

SEND DEATH THREAT TO LYNCH WITNESSES

NEW YORK — Fearing further testimony by colored witnesses of the lynching on July 4, 1933, of Norris Dendy at Clinton, S.C., at the forthcoming hearing of the grand jury, persons evidently implicated in the mob murder mailed from Woodruff, S.C., a death threat letter to Miss Clara Belle Peak, warning her and the other two witnesses, Ernest Mims, and George Crawford "to lay off . . . or this is what you get."

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Second Death Letter Keeps Witness Of Dendy Lynching North

6-23-34

New York

An anonymous letter threatening death to William Crawford, one of the important witnesses of the lynching of Norris Dendy at Clinton, S. C., on July 4, 1933, if he returned to the state, and following upon receipt of a similiar letter by Clara Bell Peake, another witness, halted the testimony, in person, of them and Ernest Mims, before the Laurens County grand jury last week in South Carolina. The grand jury, however, already has in its possession the information possessed by the three colored witnesses who were sent to Clinton last February 20, at the expense of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In a letter enclosing a photostatic copy of the death letter addressed to Crawford and urging prompt action in the matter, Walter White, N. A. A. C. P. secretary, has written Governor Ibra C. Blackwood of South Carolina, declaring that, "It is becoming increasingly evident that certain of the officials of South Carolina and of Laurens County are determined to do nothing to bring to justice the known lynchers of Norris Dendy. In all the history of lynching there has never been a more flagrant example than this one of the state's inability to act or its unwillingness to act. We wish to ask specifically what steps you as Governor have taken both to insure arrest and punishment of the lynchers and also to stimulate public opinion to support the punitive action against the lynchers."

The letter further points out that South Carolina has failed to act for eleven months, thus supplying additional evidence of the necessity for a federal anti-lynching law

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SIX CAROLINANS FREED IN 'KU KLUX' SLAYING

GREENVILLE, S. C., Nov. [illegible].—(AP)—Six members of the Ku Klux Klan were acquitted in general sessions court today of the murder of George Green, Taylors negro, last November 16.

Green was slain late at night at his farm home by one shot which came from a band of masked and robed men.

The six acquitted after the jury had deliberated for two and a half hours were E. W. Davis, C. M. Suttles, John M. Cureton, J. H. Bradley and Ralph Styles.

GREENVILLE, S. C., Nov. 9.—Six known leaders of a Ku Klux gang which lynched 70-year-old George Green, Negro cropper, last November, were freed in General Sessions Court here Saturday.

11-10-34

Green was lynched after a quarrel with his landlord, who was attempting to rob him of his crop, by driving him off land he had cultivated. Seventeen white men were arrested as a result of mass indignation against the brutal lynching. Of the 17, six were indicted for the murder. These now have been exonerated and released by the landlord-controlled lynch courts.

CHARLESTON, S. C.
NEWS AND COURIER

DEC 11 1934

LYNCHING CASE FOUGHT

Greenville Objects to Payment of $2,000 to Widow

Greenville, Dec. 10. (AP)—The South Carolina supreme court will be asked to define a lynching to settle the case of Mary Green, negress who recently was awarded $2,000 from Greenville county for the death of her husband.

H. K. Townes, county attorney, announced today that an appeal would be made on grounds that George Green was not lynched when, it was alleged, a band of masked men came to his home and shot him in the fall of 1933.

"Lynching is the murder of a person charged with some offense," Townes said. "There is no record that Green was charged with violation of any law, therefore we contend his death could not be termed a lynching and that the county should not be held responsible."

The aged negro was killed nine miles from here by alleged Klansmen and a dozen persons at first were charged with the crime. A number of these were used as state's witnesses and those charged were acquitted after a bitter trial.

The woman's suit against Greenville county was brought up in common pleas court last week and Judge W. J. Grimball directed a verdict for her.

Tennessee.

Lynchings - 1934

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

4643

WHEN WHITES AND BLACKS CLASH

We are indebted to The Huntsville Times for the following editorial:

A jury at Manchester, a score or so of miles across the Tennessee line from Huntsville, Saturday night convicted eight white men of killing a Negro tenant farmer.

The murder took place about three months ago, following a Negro social gathering at which the Negro struck a white man, who with several companions had invaded the school house where the Negro party was being held.

Friends of the white man organized later in the night, followed the Negro down a road, pursued him into a corn field and ruthlessly beat him to death.

A white jury convicted the eight defendants, who were ably represented, and gave three of them terms of five years each, while the other five were sentenced to only two years each.

Evidence showed that the white men were the aggressors throughout, first in trying to break up a Negro gathering, where they had no business, and then in ganging the Negro man who had resented their intrusion at the party.

While the sentences may seem light, in view of the fact that all the evidence indicated cold-blooded, unprovoked murder, it is some satisfaction that a white jury had the courage to bring in convictions at all. It shows that citizens of the Manchester community regard the law against murder applies to white and black alike.

This is the story of one more clash between sorry white men and Negroes.

Most of the difficulties between whites and blacks are traceable to the arrogance of the whites and not to the aggressiveness of the blacks.

The whites are arrogant because they know they are safe. The blacks are patient in the face of aggressiveness because they know that as matters stand the moral advantage is with the whites.

We have many whites who fawn upon the strong and insult the weak. These cause most of the trouble that whites have with blacks. If blacks were equal to them before the bar of public opinion, trashy whites would be less offensive to them. Everybody knows that.

On the other hand, but for that bar of public opinion blacks would themselves be insufferably aggressive. And so the only thing to do is to await the day when both blacks and those whites who enjoy having trouble with them shall have acquired enough of human dignity to see them safely through the routine of this life—Montgomery Advertiser.

News

9-12-34

Birmingham

Birmingham, Ala., News
Septemebr 15, 1934

A New Chapter In Tennessee History

Early this week a jury at Manchester, Tenn., convicted eight white men on a charge of manslaughter at a trial in which concerned the death of a Negro at the hands of a mob. Tennessee attorneys, according to the news stories, have not been able to recall any other case in that state in which so many defendants were actually convicted of killing a colored man. Each of the defendants in the Manchester case received a sentence of at least two years in the penitentiary.

Without raising any hue and cry over the matter, it is not too much to say that the Tennessee court is to be congratulated upon its willingness to consider the nature of the crime involved, rather than the color of the parties concerned. What a court of law must bear in mind is that manslaughter is just that—regardless of whether the offenders or the victims be white or black. To take such a position in many of the Southern districts requires an enormous amount of courage, particularly so in view of the fact that judgeships are usually elective offices.

This case in Coffee County, Tennessee, is not to be regarded as a great triumph in a racial contest. The outcome of it by no means indicates that a signal victory has been won for what is sometimes called "Negro justice." It does indicate, however, that the Tennessee jury was bold enough to assert the dignity of the law. The jury was willing to place the matter of the honor of the court above matters pertaining to racial problems. That is the kind of spirit which the South needs.

A New Chapter In Tennessee History

Early this week a jury at Manchester, Tenn., convicted eight white men on a charge of manslaughter at a trial in which concerned the death of a Negro at the hands of a mob. Tennessee attorneys, according to the news stories, have not been able to recall any other case in that state in which so many defendants were actually convicted of killing a colored man. Each of the defendants in the Manchester case received a sentence of at least two years in the penitentiary.

Without raising any hue and cry over the matter, it is not too much to say that the Tennessee court is to be congratulated upon its willingness to consider the nature of the crime involved, rather than the color of the parties concerned. What a court of law must bear in mind is that manslaughter is just that—regardless of whether the offenders or the victims be white or black. To take such a position in many of the Southern districts requires an enormous amount of courage, particularly so in view of the fact that judgeships are usually elective offices.

This case in Coffee County, Tennessee, is not to be regarded as a great triumph in a racial contest. The outcome of it by no means indicates that a signal victory has been won for what is sometimes called "Negro justice." It does indicate, however, that the Tennessee jury was bold enough to assert the dignity of the law. The jury was willing to place the matter of the honor of the court above matters pertaining to racial problems. That is the kind of spirit which the South needs.

A TENNESSEE JURY'S VERDICT

A jury of white men at Manchester, Tenn., returned a verdict against six men charged with killing a negro man and gave them sentences ranging from two to five years. From the evidence, it appears the men were the aggressors from the start. They went to a negro festival and raised a disturbance and aggravated a negro man to the extent that he slapped one of them and his friends waylaid the road and deliberately shot the negro to death.

Negroes are entitled to have their meetings free from disturbances from white people. The laws of the land give him this right and he should be protected in this right. The Southern people, contrary to the ideas of some enemies of the South, believe he should be protected in his rights. The negroes are learning that the Southern people are the best friends they have. We hope some of the Northern and Eastern papers could learn of this verdict of a white Southern Jury.—Scottsboro Progressive Age.

Mt. Pleasant, Tenn. Record
August 31, 1934

NO INDICTMENTS IN MAURY LYNCHING CASE

Six Accused Maury Countians Exonerated after Probe of Davidson Grand Jury

Six Maury county citizens, who were accused of participating in the lynching of Cordie Cheek, 16-year-old Negro last December, were exonerated by the Davidson county grand jury. Those released from any complicity in the kidnaping and murder were Bert Evans, H. C. Moore, Bob Hancock, Red Miller, Gad Gillem and Hayes Denton.

Charged with assaulting an 11-year-old girl, near Glendale, eight miles of Columbia, Cheek was taken to the Davidson county jail last December for safety. Prosecution seemingly dropped in Maury county at request of relatives of the victim. Cheek was then released from the Davidson county jail on the afternoon of Dec. 15, after the Maury county grand jury failed to indict him. His body was found a few hours later, hanging from a tree near scene of the assault. He had been kidnaped, by an auto full of white men, it is stated, from the home of a Nashville, relative, a few minutes after he had been released from the Davidson county jail, and he was warned that it would not be safe to return to Maury county.

Jurisdiction over the murderers of the Negro, even though he may have been killed after arrival in this county, can be established in either county because of a state law giving jurisdiction to either county involved in the perpetration of a crime, it was determined. The Davidson county grand jury had been especially charged by the court to pr
the Negro's death.

WHEN WHITES AND BLACKS CLASH

We are indebted to The Huntsville Times for the following editorial:

A jury at Manchester, a score or so of miles across the Tennessee line from Huntsville, Saturday night convicted eight white men of killing a negro tenant farmer.

The murder took place about three months ago, following a negro social gathering at which the negro struck a white man, who with several companions had invaded the school house where the negro party was being held.

Friends of the white man organized later in the night, followed the negro down a road, pursued him into a corn field and ruthlessly beat him to death.

A white jury convicted the eight defendants, who were ably represented, and gave three of them terms of five years each, while the other five were sentenced to only two years each.

Evidence showed that the white men were the aggressors throughout, first in trying to break up a negro gathering, where they had no business, and then in ganging the negro man who had resented their intrusion at the party.

While the sentences may seem light, in view of the fact that all the evidence indicated cold-blooded, unprovoked murder, it is some satisfaction that a white jury had the courage to bring in convictions at all. It shows that citizens of the Manchester community regard the law against murder applies to white and black alike.

This is the story of one more clash between sorry white men and negroes.

Most of the difficulties between whites and blacks are traceable to the arrogance of the whites and not to the aggressiveness of the blacks.

The whites are arrogant because they know they are safe. The blacks are patient in the face of aggressiveness because they know that as matters stand the moral advantage is with the whites.

We have many whites who fawn upon the strong and insult the weak. These cause most of the trouble that whites have with blacks. If blacks were equal to them before the bar of public opinion, trashy whites would be less offensive to them. Everybody knows that.

On the other hand, but for that bar of public opinion blacks would themselves be insufferably aggressive. And so the only thing to do is to await the day when both blacks and those whites who enjoy having trouble with them shall have acquired enough of human dignity to see them safely through the routine of this life.

Advertiser

9-12-34

Montgomery

Ala

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
AGE HERALD

SEP 14 1934

When Whites And Blacks Clash

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Murfreesboro, Tenn.
NEWS[redacted]

SEP 6 1934

YOUTH DESCRIBES COFFEE LYNCHING

Boy Testifies Against Stepfather In Wilkerson Trial

MANCHESTER.—Testimony against his own stepfather was given by a fourteen year old boy, in the case of eight men on trial for the murder of a negro last June. The boy is Robert Richardson first witness for the state who testified on the stand that he rode in an automobile with his stepfather, John Gibson and the other men while they searched for the negro, Dick Wilkerson.

The others are Willard, Elijah and Edward Keele, brothers; Lewis Garner, Wilburn Sherill, Leonard Warren and John B. Henley.

The prosecution questioned four witnesses to establish its version of the slaying of Wilkerson, Negro tenant farmer, following a disturbance at a Negro party during which Wilkerson struck a white man.

Lee Cash, justice of the peace, testified that some of the defendants came to him immediately after the fight and swore out an assault warrant for Wilkerson.

They then took the warrant to Sam Henley, a constable, Henley testified, and asked hi mto serve it. Ed Partin, merchant, said the defendants came to him in the middle of the night and wanted to buy .38-calibre cartridges. This was established as following their visit to Henley.

Young Richardson testified that he was picked up by the band at a house where Amos Walls, the man who was struck by Wilkerson, was being treated.

The boy said they drove up and down a highway, running between Wilkerson's home and the place where the party was held, looking for the Negro.

Suddenly, he said, they saw Wilkerson walking along the road in the glare of the headlights.

The white men stopped their car, he said, and a shot rang out. Wilkerson leaped for a nearby fence and crossed it into a field. Some of the men in the car gave chase and young Richardson said he heard other shots.

Finally he was left alone in the car for several minutes and then, he said the band returned from the field and drove away.

Wilkerson's body was found soon after dawn the next morning by a searching party, including Wade Bynum, farmer for whom he worked. The Negro had been shot four times.

Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Tennessee

4644

X (1)

Prof. Albert Barnett Sees Quiz as Farce

NEW YORK, March 16.—Charging that the pending investigation by Maury county, Tennessee, authorities of the Cordie Cheek lynching on Dec. 15 will be a "white-wash," Prof. Albert E. Barnett of Scarritt college, Nashville, who led a group of prominent people to Washington recently to testify in favor of the Costigan-Wagner bill, declares that only federal action will bring the lynchers to justice.

In a letter to Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Professor Barnett writes: "The Maury county grand jury plans to investigate the lynching. The Davidson county authorities have taken no action and are probably delaying in the hope that Maury county will take the initiative. Of course if the case goes into the Maury county courts it will be a straight 'white-wash'. . . .

"In my estimation the Negroes who have the most valuable evidence in the case will be afraid to appear in court in Maury county, whereas they would appear in Davidson county. This, added to the hostility of the Maury county citizenship, will make any trial staged down there a perfect farce. The case illustrates conclusively the ineffectiveness of our local courts in handling lynching cases and the absolute necessity of relief through federal action. I wish it were possible to bring the sheriffs and prosecutors of David and Maury counties to Washington under senate subpoena and quiz them thoroughly before the committee."

Charges Prosecutor Condoned Mob

In a letter to Senator Van Nuys, chairman of the judiciary subcommittee conducting hearings on the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, Professor Barnett urges that the Maury and Davidson county officials be hailed to Washington for cross-examination. "Citizens here have raised $1,000 to employ a special prosecutor," Professor Barnett writes, "but it is not improbable that the prosecutor will block his functioning, and he himself has on at least one occasion publicly condoned the lynching. Let me reiterate the conviction expressed in my statement to the committee that the fine on the county in which a lynching takes place is the most effective provision in this (Costigan-Wagner) bill. As a citizen and a taxpayer, I want to help indemnify the family of mob victims."

3-17-34

Constitution
6-27-34
Atlanta Ga.

8 Held Without Bond In Murder of Negro

MANCHESTER, Tenn., June 26.—(AP)—Eight white men charged with having been members of a mob that abducted and shot to death a negro farm hand near here early Sunday were bound over to the grand jury without bond at their preliminary hearing today.

Several white men went to an ice cream supper at a negro church Saturday night and in the disturbance that followed Dick Wilkerson, 35-year-old negro, was reported to have struck one of the intruders.

A few hours later Wilkerson's body was found in an oat field. He had been stripped of his clothing, shot four times and beaten with an ax.

The defendant's names were listed as follows:

Willard, Elijah and Edward Keele, brothers; John Gibson, Lewis Garner, Wilburn Sherrill, Leonard Warren and John B. Henley.

Constitution
6-25-34

TENNESSEE NEGRO SLAIN BY EIGHT MEN

MANCHESTER, Tenn., June 24.—(AP)—A 35-year-old negro was shot and killed and his body mutilated, by a band of white men near here early today and officers reported the act occurred after the men had visited a negro dance where the negro struck one of them. Eight men were held tonight charged with the murder.

Advertiser
6-27-34
Montgomery
Ala.

8 White Men Accused Of Lynching Tennessee Negro Held To Grand Jury

MANCHESTER, TENN., June 26.—(AP)—Accused of being members of a mob that killed a negro who had struck a white intruder at a negro church ice cream supper, eight men were held without bond for the August grand jury after a preliminary hearing here today. They did not testify.

Sheriff C. D. Huffman said he was informed that a group of white men went to the festival Saturday night "for the purpose of breaking up the negro to-do," and that one began cursing Dick Wilkerson, 35-year-old negro farm hand who felled him with a club.

A few hours later the body of Wilkerson, stripped of clothing, shot four times and beaten with an axe, was found in an oat field.

Subsequently, the eight defendants, companions of the man struck by Wilkerson, said by Sheriff Huffman to have been were arrested and brought before three magistrates today for a hearing. Their names were listed as Willard, Elijah and Edward Keele, brothers; John Gibson, Lewis Garner, Wilburn Sherrill, Leonard Warren and John B. Henley.

The man hit by Wilkerson, the Sheriff said, was badly hurt and was not in the party that went in search of his assailant.

Gibson's 14-year-old stepson, Robert Richardson, was the State's principal witness at the hearing. He testified that he accompanied the defendants in Wilkerson's own automobile as they searched for Wilkerson. He did not know the nature of the trouble at the festival.

When a search of the negro's home proved unavailing, the boy related, the men destroyed his household furnishing. Starting back to the church, he said, they met the negro on the road. Wilkerson jumped a fence, the boy testified, and several shots were fired in his direction by members of the party. He added that six of the defendants got out of the car and followed Wilkerson. Later the other two went into the field, leaving him along in the automobile, the boy related.

In about 15 minutes, the witness continued, all eight men returned to the car and he left them a short time later to return home.

Lecile Mash, a farm worker who lives across the road from the field in which the negro's body was found, testified that he was awakened by shotgun and pistol shots about 3 a.m., Sunday. He told of hearing an automobile driving up and down the road. At daybreak, he related he saw six men in the field and recognized four of them as Gibson, Garner, Sherrill and Elijah Keele.

Mash testified that the men were searching for Wilkerson, not believing he had been killed. They found him dead, the witness said. He said he found his axe in the field about 300 feet from the woodpile where it was kept.

Mamie Wilkerson, widow of the slain man, said she left the festival when the trouble started and went to the home of her sister-in-law. Some white men went there looking for Wilkerson, she continued, but she did not recognize them.

It was estimated by Magistrate T. R. Holmes, one of the three presiding at the hearing, that between 600 and 800 spectators were present.

Advertiser
6-27-34
Montgomery
Ala.

NEW YORK
[redacted] WORLD
Telegram
JUN 25 1934

8 MEN JAILED IN NEGRO DEATH

Tennesseeans Are Accused of Lynching After White Man Is Slapped at Dance.

By the Associated Press.

MANCHESTER, Tenn., June 25.—A Negro who slapped a white man at a Negro dance has paid with his life and today eight white farmers were in jail charged with killing him.

Stripped of his clothing, shot four times and beaten with a weapon believed to have been an ax, the Negro, Dick Wilkerson, 35, was found dead in an oat field yesterday by two farmers who lived near the scene of the crime, fourteen miles southeast of here.

A few hours later, upon information furnished them by a 14-year-old boy, Coffee County officers arrested eight young farmers and charged them with murder. Among the eight was the stepfather of the boy. Three other men were brothers.

Meanwhile, it had been found that the Negro's home had been invaded and wrecked.

Sheriff Huffman said he thought the man who was slapped by the Negro was Henry Walls, though he was not sure. The men arrested were William Peel, Edward Peel, Elijah Peel, Louis Garner, John A. Gibson, Glenn Warren, Henry Sherrill and John Henley. Gibson is the step-father of Billy Richardson, the boy who named all eight men.

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8 Whites Held In Negro's Death

Tennessee Farmers Tear Negro Away From Party Kill Him, Maugh Body

MANCHESTER, TENN., June 24.—(AP)—A 35-year-old negro was shot and killed and his body mutilated by a band of white men near here early today, and officers reported the act occurred after the men had visited a negro dance where the negro struck one of them. Eight men were held tonight charged with the murder.

Sheriff C. D. Huffman of Coffee County said that before the negro, Dick Wilkerson, was slain his attackers went to his home and "tore up everything he had, tore it literally all to pieces."

They then returned to the dance, said Sheriff Huffman, and took Wilkerson and another negro, unidentified, away in an automobile. Apparently the unidentified negro escaped.

Wilkerson's body was found early today by two white men living near the place where the shooting occurred, about 14 miles southeast of here. Sheriff Huffman said his clothing had been torn off, that he had been shot three times with a shot gun and once with a rifle or heavy revolver and that his body had been beaten with an axe.

Included in the band of attackers, said the sheriff, was a 14-year-old boy, step-son of one of the men in the band. The officers reported this boy furnished the names of the eight men who were arrested. The eight were held in jail tonight, and the boy was also held.

Sheriff Huffham did not know the cause of the trouble at the dance, but said that immediately after it occurred "somebody swore out a warrant for the negro, and that's how we heard about the first scrap."

"Before we got to the negro's house to serve the warrant," he said, "we heard about the killing. When we did go to the house we found that the men had been there and torn up everything Wilkerson had, torn it literally all to pieces."

"The boy who went along with the men gave the whole thing away. He told us who had been in the band and something of what had happened."

A coroner returned a verdict of murder in connection with the shooting.

The eight men held were described by the sheriff as being farmers, living in the Elk River community. Officers said that all of them were young and three were brothers. With the information given by the boy, they were rounded up within a few hours after the discovery of the body.

NASHVILLE, TENN.
EVE. TENNESSEAN

JUN 25 1934

8 JAILED AFTER NEGRO LYNCHING NEAR MANCHESTER

Tragedy Follows Fight at Dance Saturday Night.

HOME WRECKED

Pistol, Axe Used; Boy, 14, Gives Names to Officers.

MANCHESTER, Tenn., June 24. (Spl.)—Eight persons are held here on murder charges after Dick Wilkerson, 35, negro, kidnaped from the vicinity of a dance near Betsy Willis church, 14 miles southeast of this town, was found with his body stripped, the victim of gunshot and axe wounds early this morning.

The lynching followed trouble at a negro dance earlier in the night, when Wilkerson fought a white man who visited the place. According to Sheriff C. D. Huffman, the eight participants, one of whom took along his 14-year-old stepson, returned to the dance about 2:30 o'clock this morning, forced Wilkerson and a negro companion to get in a car and drove him a mile away, where they took the victim's clothing off, permitted the other negro to escape, then killed Wilkerson.

Previously the group of white men had visited Wilkerson's home, where, failing to find him, they wrecked the furniture, tearing beds and chairs into bits.

The men, all of the Prairie Plains section, held on murder charges at the Coffee county jail, are William, Elijah and Edwin Keel, brothers; Lewis Garner, John Gibson, John B. Henly, Wilbur Sherrill and Leonard Warren. Robert Richardson, 14, stepson of Gibson, told of the lynching, according to Sheriff Huffman. The boy is held as a material witness.

Sheriff Huffman did not know the cause of the trouble at the dance, but said that immediately after it occurred "somebody swore out a warrant for the negro, and that's how we heard about the first scrap."

"Before we got to the negro's house to serve the warrant," he said, "we heard about the killing. When we did go to the house we found that the men had been there and torn up everything Wilkerson had, torn it literally all to pieces.

"The boy who went along with the men gave the whole thing away. He told us who had been in the band and something of what had happened."

Notified, Sheriff Huffman, with Deputies J. L. Lovett, J. P. Shelton, Paul Huffman, and F. J. Touser, went to the scene and began an investigation. Following the recital of the killing by the Richardson boy, the arrests were made. Mr. Touser, also Coffee county coroner, held an inquest at the scene and the jury returned a verdict of murder.

From information gathered by officers, the first trouble came Saturday night near midnight, when several white men visited the negro dance and one of the party got into a fight with Wilkerson. The latter was a tenant farmer living but a mile and a half from the scene, and had borne a good reputation. There was a fight and Wilkerson knocked the man down, according to reports.

"The white men then left the place," Sheriff Huffman said he was informed. He said that it was apparent a band was rounded up, and that they visited Wilkerson's house first. Failing to find him, they wrecked the place. Then they returned to the dance and forced Wilkerson and another colored man to go with them.

Wilkerson's nude body was drilled with shotgun missles, bullets from a "heavy" revolver, or rifle, officers said, and wounds from an axe.

NASHVILLE, TENN.
MORNING TENNESSEAN

JUN 25 1934

LAD TAKEN TO SEE LYNCHING EXPOSES MEMBERS OF BAND

Eight White Men Held For Death of Coffee Negro.

HEARINGTUESDAY

MANCHESTER, Tenn.— (Spl)—The story of a frightened 14-year-old boy, an unwilling member of a lynching party, led to the arrest Sunday morning of eight white men charged with the murder of a negro, Dick Wilkerson, 35, who was slain following a Saturday night church festival.

Preliminary hearing for the eight men, Willard, Elijah and Edward Keel, brothers; Lewis Garner, John Gibson, John B. Henley, Wilbur Sherrill and Leonard Warren, all of the Prairie Plains community near here, will be held here Tuesday morning at 9:30 o'clock before Magistrates T. R. Holmes and Adam Simmons.

The eight men and Robert Richardson, 14-year-old stepson of Gibson, who told Sheriff C. D. Huffman the story of the crime and gave the names of the men, are being held without bond in the Coffee County jail here. The boy is being held as a material witness.

The lynching followed a fight at a Saturday night festival at the Patten's Chapel negro church, fourteen miles southeast of here. Amos Walls, 17-year-old white youth, was felled by a blow from a club wielded by Wilkerson.

Several white men, who were with Walls at the time of the fight left immediately and Sunday morning, about 2:30 o'clock, eight white men drove back to the festival and forced Wilkerson and another negro, Albert McFarland, to accompany them.

Several miles from the church the car was stopped, and the men tore off Wilkerson's clothes and killed him, according to Sheriff C. D. Huffman. McFarland was allowed to escape with a pistol bullet in his leg.

Wilkerson's nude body was found Sunday morning by a searching party composed of Constable Sam Henley, Guy Wilson and Wade Bynam, farmers. The negro had been riddled by shotgun fire and several bullets from a rifle. His body had also been hacked with an axe. He was a tenant on Bynam's farm.

Constable Henley located McFarland, who told him of the lynching. He immediately called Sheriff Huffman, who went with a party of four deputies to investigate the crime.

Sheriff Huffman said that the frightened Richardson boy, who had been forced by his stepfather to accompany the lynching party, "gave the whole thing away." 'He told us,' Sheriff Huffman said, "who had been in the band and something of what happened."

Sheriff Huffman declared that the first he had heard of the trouble was early Sunday morning, when he was notified by a magistrate that a warrant had been sworn out for the arrest of Wilkerson for assaulting Walls.

'Before we got to the negro's house to serve the warrant we heard about the killing," the sheriff said. "When we did go we found that the men had been there and torn the place all to pieces."

Eight Tennesseeans Convicted of Lynching

Constitution

9-9-34

MANCHESTER, Tenn., Sept. 8.—(AP)—Within three months after they were arrested on charges of murdering a negro tenant farmer eight white men were convicted tonight of voluntary manslaughter by a jury of 11 farmers and one former policemen.

The jury recommended maximum sentences of five years for John Gibson, Lewis Garner and Willard Keele.

Minimum manslaughter sentences of two years were recommended for Leonard Warren, Wilburn Sherrill, John B. Henley and Elijah and Edward Keele, brothers of Willard.

Defence counsel moved for a new trial and Circuit Judge R. W. Smartt said that he would hear arguments on the motion next week.

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8 Men Sentenced For Killing Negro

Advertiser

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The jury recommended maximum sentences of five years for John Gibson, Lewis Garner, and Willard Keele.

Minimum manslaughter sentences of two years were recommended for Leonard Warren, Wilburn Sherrill, John B. Henley and Elijah and Edward Keele, brothers of Willard.

Montgomery, Ala.

Under Tennessee statutes, a jury may recommend any sentence from two to 10 years in manslaughter cases.

The jury was out almost four hours, taking the case at 7 o'clock tonight and reporting shortly before 11 p.m.

X (2)

"No True Bill" Voted In Cordie Cheek Lynching

9-13-34

By HERMAN J. D. CARTER

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Sept. 13.—(ANP)—A grand jury returned a verdict of "No True Bill" after a two days discussion and listening to the evidence involved in the Cordie Cheek lynching which was staged near Fisk university last December after Cheek had been freed from a charge of criminally assaulting a white woman in Columbia, by the Davidson county grand jury.

Attorney Richard Atkinson, the retiring attorney general of Tennessee, took the lynching matter into his own hands after seeing that local law forces were determined not to indict the lynchers and found out the names of the actual lynchers including the colored boy who was forced to attend the lynching party, and the uncle of the girl, who refused to allow the girl to be questioned at the time the crime is alleged to have been committed. He admitted that he had not talked to the girl, his niece, and could not say that she had been raped. Attorney Jeff McCarn, the special prosecutor who aided Attorney Atkinson, secured enough witnesses to "Cause the indictment but the jury just wouldn't do justice" was the report from the official of the Criminal court department.

Tennessee.

Lynchings - 1934
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

4645

"Southern Justice" Of New Brand Dealt Manchester Killers

JURY DELIBERATES FOUR HOURS, RETURNS VERDICT OF FIVE YEARS FOR 3, TWO YEARS FOR OTHER 5

Manchester, Tenn.—Unless justice [illegible] which at this time seems [illegible] eight white men who hunted [illegible] farm hand in this farm hand's own car and then shot him to death while he was fleeing from them are going to serve time in the state prison for the part they played in the most brutal lynching perpetrated on Tennessee soil in 1934.

After a week's trial, a Coffee county jury deliberated for four hour[illegible] State against eight mobbists, and at midnight last S[illegible] returned the following verdicts against the killers of Dick Wilkerson:

Five years in the prison for John Gibson, 34, Lewis Garner, 40, and Willard Keele, 28.

Two years in the prison for Elijah Keele, 27, John B. Henley, 24, Wilburn Sherrill, 20, Leonard Warren, 19 and Edward Keele, 19.

Attorneys for the convicted men made the [illegible] motion for a new trial, which the judge indicated he would hear discussed at a later date. The [illegible] sentiment of the leading citizens of the county is that the men had a fair trial and got off with just about the lightest sentence that any tribunal of justice could give for so [illegible] a crime.

9-14-34

District Attorney General Diemer Lamb, in the vigor he displayed in conducting the prosecution of the eight mobbists, ro[illegible] heroic heights [illegible] side of young Robert Richardson, 14, the son of one of the killers who proved to be the state's star witness, and Sheriff C. D. Huffmant who hunted down each and every one of the members of the mob and put them in jail in a day after they had committed their crime.

General Lamb had the choice of "going easy" with the prosecution of these men, as is the common custom of too many Southern prosecutors or of bearing down hard on them. He chose the latter course and so unerringly drove home the points establishing the guilt of the men, that there was little doubt of the jury's verdict when he finished his wonderful prosecuting address last Saturday evening.

The crime for which the eight men were convicted occurred on early Sunday morning, June 24th of this year. Some of the men and another white man by the name of Amos Walls had gone to a colored church festival, and Walls got into a fight with Dick Wilkerson. Wilkerson knocked Walls down when Walls, according to the statement of witnesses, started after Wilkerson with a club and a pistol. Following this the men left the scene of trouble. They later on returned and stole Wilkerson's car and used it in hunting Wilkerson down. Before starting on the death hunt they got young Robert Richardson, and carried him along to see the lynching. This act proved their undoing as the boy, horrified at the brutality of the killing willingly turned state's evidence and helped as nothing else in bringing about the conviction.

Some fear was felt by the forces of law and order when no special term of the Coffee county grand jury was called. However, the delay had no effect. The eight members of the mob were sentenced to jail and denied bail. The August grand jury promptly found a "true bill" against them, they were tried and convicted. Their hope of escape is through a new trial with a different jury, or a pardon by the governor.

The strongest point in the defense of the eight men, was their claim that they sought Wilkerson on the night they lynched him, only for the purpose of arresting him. They had secured a warrant for his arrest but the deputy sheriff who held it refused to make the arrest that night. This defense was broken down by proof that the men were so vicious in their hunt for Wilkerson that they went to his home and completely destroyed the furniture in it. Wilkerson bore a good reputation among the best people of the county.

Chattanooga, Tenn.
TIMES

SEP 10 1934

WILKERSON'S KILLERS CONVICTED.

The law has been upheld in Coffee County by the twelve men who convicted eight white men of voluntary manslaughter in connection with the killing of Dick Wilkerson, Negro, near Manchester on the ~~night~~ of last June 24. The eight convicted killers are facing penitentiary sentences aggregating twenty-five years.

In view of the character of the crime for which they were tried, the punishment fixed by the jury for the Negro's slayers is extremely light. Doubtless many a thoughtful citizen regards it as being far from adequate. Some may even look upon the punishment fixed by the jury as being little short of mockery of the law against taking human life. But all things considered, the verdict is most encouraging. It is notice that Coffee County citizens regard the law against taking human life as being for the protection of Negroes as well as for the protection of whites.

The trial was not free, however, from efforts to introduce the race question. Perhaps the proceedings in court reached their lowest point when Walter M. Haynes, former Speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives and counsel for the defense, sought to influence the jury by declaring in his closing speech: "We try to live here in peace and harmony, but thank God that beneath the Stars and Stripes this is still a white man's country in Dixie." That appeal to race prejudice was unworthy of Mr. Haynes. And while reasonable citizens must condemn it, they most heartily approve the following instruction to the jury by Circuit Judge R. W. Smartt: "Do not be influenced by any feeling between one race and another in this case."

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
STATES

SEP 15 1934

An Unusual Case

NOW and then some jury in the South looks at a criminal case in which whites and blacks are involved and seeks to do full justice regardless of color. Such a jury in Manchester, Tenn., the other day, did so, when it convicted eight white men of killing a negro tenant farmer.

The murder occurred three months ago, following a negro social gathering at which the tenant struck a white man who, with several companions, had invaded the school house where the party was in progress. These white men had not been invited, they had no business there and theirs was the whole responsibility for provoking the trouble.

The whites finally withdrew from the party and organized a lynching bee. They followed the negro down the road, pursued him into a cornfield and ruthlessly beat him to death. Evidence showed those who invaded the party were the aggressors throughout, first in trying to break up the party and then in ganging the negro.

* * *

THE lynchers were put on trial together. They were represented by the best available counsel. But the jury, composed wholly of whites, found all guilty. Three of the eight were sentenced to five-year terms, while the other five were given two-year terms.

The punishment might be considered in disproportion to the enormity of the crime, for the evidence proved a cold-blooded murder, with no mitigating circumstances. But there is satisfaction in the fact that this white jury, picked from the community in which the accused resided, had the courage to render a guilty verdict.

The negro practically has been denied the privilege of suffrage in the South, and makes no protest against it. But he is entitled to the protection of his civil rights where he lives obediently to the law; and a white jury is entitled to commendation when in a case like that at Manchester it disregards the color line and condemns those responsible for wanton murder when a negro is the victim.

4645

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
NEWS

SEP 15 1934

A TENNESSEE JURY'S VERDICT

A jury of white men at Manchester, Tenn., returned a verdict against six men charged with killing a Negro man and gave them sentences ranging from two to five years. From the evidence, it appears the men were the aggressors from the start. They went to a Negro festival and raised a disturbance and aggravated a Negro man to the extent that he slapped one of them, and his friends waylaid the road and deliberately shot the Negro to death.

Negroes are entitled to have their meetings free from disturbance from white people. The laws of the land give him this right and he should be protected in this right. The Southern people, contrary to the ideas of some enemies of the South, believe he should be protected in his rights. The Negroes are learning that the Southern people are the best friends they have. We hope some of the Northern and Eastern papers could learn of this verdict of a white Southern jury.—Scottsboro Progressive Age.

KNOXVILLE, TENN.
NEWS SENTINEL
SEP 6-193

YOUTH TELLS OF LYNCHING

Testifies to Midnight Ride by Band of White Men Hunting for Negro.

By Associated Press

MANCHESTER, Tenn., Sept. 6.—From the witness stand in Circuit Court here the widow of a lynched negro was scheduled to face the alleged slayers of her husband today and testify against them.

Diemer Lamb, district attorney-general, said that Mattie Wilkerson would be one of the star witnesses in the trial of eight white men charged with the murder of Dick Wilkerson, negro tenant farmer.

Mrs. Wilkerson was on the stand briefly yesterday but testified only to the fact that the interior of her home was torn up by a band of white men looking for her husband shortly before he was killed.

She did not testify regarding what occurred at a negro party which she attended earlier that night of June 24 during which Wilkerson became involved in a fight with some white men and struck one of them.

Boy Tells of Ride

Several hundred persons were present at yesterday's sessions. Robert Richardson, 14, stepson of John Gibson, one of the defendants, took the stand as the state's first witness and told of the midnight ride of a band of white men hunting for Wilkerson.

Young Richardson said that he rode with the band in Wilkerson's automobile, which they had taken from the scene of the negro party after Wilkerson started home on foot.

The white men, he testified, picked up the negro in the glare of their headlights and drove up beside him. The boy heard a shot ring out and saw the negro dart for a fence and spring across it into a field.

Men Chased Negro

He said the men left the automobile, in which he remained, and ran after the negro. More shots were heard.

Wilkerson's body, bearing several bullet wounds, was found soon after daybreak.

Ed Partin, merchant and one of several other state witnesses to go on the stand yesterday, testified that some of the defendants had gone to him during the night and sought to buy .38-calibre cartridges.

The defendants are Gibson, Lewis Garner, Wilburn Sherrill, Leonard Warren, John B. Henley and three brothers, Williard, Elijah and Edward Keele.

Murfreesboro, Tenn.
NEWS-[illegible]

SEP 6 1934

YOUTH DESCRIBES COFFEE LYNCHING

Boy Testifies Against Stepfather In Wilkerson Trial

MANCHESTER.—Testimony against his own stepfather was given by a fourteen year old boy, in the case of eight men on trial for the murder of a negro last June. The boy is Robert Richardson first witness for the state who testified on the stand that he rode in an automobile with his stepfather John Gibson and the other men while they searched for the negro, Dick Wilkerson.

The others are Willard, Elijah and Edward Keele, brothers; Lewis Garner Wilburn Sherill, Leonard Warren and John B. Henley.

The prosecution questioned four witnesses to establish its version of the slaying of Wilkerson, Negro tenant farmer, following a disturbance at a Negro party during which Wilkerson struck a white man.

Lee Cash, justice of the peace, testified that some of the defendants came to him immediately after the fight and swore out an assault warrant for Wilkerson.

They then took the warrant to Sam Henley, a constable, Henley testified, and asked hi mto serve it. Ed Partin, merchant, said the defendants came to him in the middle of the night and wanted to buy .38-calibre cartridges. This was established as following their visit to Henley.

Young Richardson testified that he was picked up by the band at a house where Amos Walls, the man who was struck by Wilkerson, was being treated.

The boy said they drove up and down a highway, running between Wilkerson's home and the place where the party was held, looking for the Negro.

Suddenly, he said, they saw Wilkerson walking along the road in the glare of the headlights.

The white men stopped their car, he said, and a shot rang out. Wilkerson leaped for a nearby fence and crossed it into a field. Some of the men in the car gave chase and young Richardson said he heard other shots.

Finally he was left alone in the car for several minutes and then, he said. the band returned from the field and drove away.

Wilkerson's body was found soon after dawn the next morning by a searching party, including Wade Bynum, farmer for whom he worked. The Negro had been shot four times.

Tullahoma, Tenn., Guardian
September 27, 1934

Negro Lynchers Waive Appeal

Withdrawal of the application for a hearing on a new trial motion in the case of the eight white men convicted of manslaughter in the death of Dick Wilkerson, negro farm hand was made last week. The eight men were sent immediately to the state penitentiary at Nashville where three of them begin serving five year sentences and five of them start two year sentences. They were convicted of manslaughter.

This is the first time in the history of the state that so many men have been convicted for a single death. The trial attracted wide attention, due to the unusual nature of the killing, and has brought widespread comment from newspapers all over the United States.

Lynchings-1934
&
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Tennessee

4646

GRAND JURY ORDERED TO INDICT LYNCHERS

Constitution
1-2-34
Atlanta Ga.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 1.—(AP) The new county grand jury was given special instructions today to investigate the recent abduction and lynching of Cord Cheek, 19-year-old negro, and "promptly indict" the perpetrators if their identity can be determined.

Cheek was hanged in Maury county, near Columbia, December 15 after that county's grand jury had failed to return an indictment following his arrest on a charge of attempting to attack a little white girl. He had been held in the Nashville jail, but was released when the Maury grand jury failed to act. He was abducted here a few hours after his release.

In his charge, Criminal Judge Charles Gilbert termed the affair "one of the most flagrant and outrageous violations of the law ever committed or partly committed, in Davidson county."

"I want you to exercise your inquisitorial power to the fullest extent," Judge Gilbert continued, "to determine what acts in connection therewith transpired in Davidson county and who the perpetrators were and to promptly indict such person or persons. . . ."

OUSTER OF SHERIFF ASKED IN MISSOURI CASE

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Jan. 1.—(AP)—A Buchanan county grand jury returned 11 indictments in the lynching November 28 of Lloyd Warner, negro, and recommended that Sheriff Otto Theisen and members of the police department, which yielded to the mob, be ousted.

The jury's report was made late Saturday. Prosecutor Frank L. Kirtley said he would confer with Criminal Judge J. V. Gaddy tomorrow regarding possible action. Sheriff Theisen said: "I have no intention of resigning." Charles A. Enos, chief of police, declined immediate comment.

GRAND JURY URGED TO PROBE LYNCHING

Tennessee Judge Also Wants Prohibition Violators Billed

Advertiser

NASHVILLE, TENN., Jan. 1.—(AP)—Emphatic instructions to indict those involved in the recent lynching of a negro and to proceed against violators of the State dry laws were given the new Davidson County Grand Jury today by Criminal Judge Charles Gilbert.

Charging the first Grand Jury impanelled since repeal of the 18th amendment, Judge Gilbert emphasized that wiping out of Federal constitutional prohibition did not modify the State's strict bone dry laws. Turning to the recent abduction and lynching of Cord Cheek, 19-year-old negro, he said it was "one of the most flagrant and outrageous violations of the law ever committed, or partly committed, in Davidson County."

1-2-34

Held in jail in Nashville following his arrest in Maury County on a charge of attempting to attack a white girl, Cheek was released when authorities were advised that the Maury County Grand Jury sitting at Columbia had failed to return an indictment. Shortly after his release he was abducted by a band of men from the home of relatives here, and a few hours later his body was found hanging from a cedar tree in Maury County.

Montgomery
Ala.

Judge Gilbert said that "because of the very nature of the offense" he could "readily understand" that difficulties would be encountered in obtaining evidence, but that nevertheless "I want you to know that you will have every assistance the court can give you in making a sincere and vigorous effort to apprehend the guilty parties."

He called on the Grand Jury to "exercise your inquisitorial power to the fullest extent to determine what acts in connection therewith transpired in Davidson County and who the perpetrators were, and to promptly indict such person or persons."

As to the bone dry laws, Judge Gilbert said repeal of Federal prohibition had created "a great deal of misunderstanding on the part of the citizens" with reference to the possession, manufacture and transportation of liquor.

While 3.2 beer has been legalized, Judge Gilbert emphasized that beverages of greater alcoholic content are banned by statutes which "are still in full force and effect and can be altered, modified, or repealed only by the Legislature."

"The prohibition laws of this State," he declared, "are entitled to the same fair and impartial consideration as any other laws and unless our Legislature declares otherwise, it is your solemn duty to indict as you do in all other cases where a violation is shown. In other words, you are not to judge of the popularity or unpopularity of any law or measure. . . . . ."

Tennessean
NASHVILLE
TENNESSEE
JAN 2 1934

Grand Jury Here Is Told to Probe and Indict Kidnap-Lynch Case and Enforce Rum Laws

Instructions to indict those responsible for the recent kidnap-lynching of Cordie Cheek, 17-year-old Maury county negro, and to proceed against violators of the state bone-dry laws, were given the new Davidson county grand jury Monday morning by Criminal Court Judge Charles Gilbert immediately after the new grand jurors were impanelled.

The grand jury, which is to serve during the January term of criminal court, is the first to be appointed since national repeal of prohibition laws, and Judge Gilbert emphasized that wiping out of federal liquor laws did not modify the state's strict statutes against intoxicants.

Judge Gilbert termed the negro's lynching "one of the most flagrant and outrageous crimes ever committed, or partly committed in Davidson county."

Held in jail here following his arrest in Maury county on a charge of attempted criminal assault upon an 11-year-old white girl, Cheek was released after authorities here were advised the Maury grand jury had failed to indict him. A short while later a band of six armed men kidnaped him from the home of relatives in North Nashville, and that night his body was found hanging from a cedar tree in Maury county.

Orders Probe

Judge Gilbert called on the grand jurors to exercise their inquisitorial power "to the fullest extent to determine what acts in connection therewith, transpired in Davidson county and who the petartors were, and to promptly indict such person or persons."

Judge Gilbert said that because of the "very nature of the event," he could "readily understand the difficulty you will exerience" in obtaining evidence, but that nevertheless "I want you to know that you will have every assistance the court can give you in making a sincere and vigorous effort to apprehend the guilty parties."

Liquor Laws

Referring to the state's liquor laws, Judge Gilbert said, repeal of federal prohibition had created a "great deal of misunderstanding on the part of the citizens" with respect to possession, manufacture and transportation of liquor.

He pointed out that while 3.2 beer has been legalized in Tennessee, beverages of greater alcoholic content are banned by statutes which are "still in force and effect and can only be altered, modified or repealed by the legislature."

"In other words," Judge Gilbert told the grand jurors, "You are not to judge of the popularity or unpopularity of any law or measure."

New Grand Jurors.

The grand jurors selected yesterday are Magistrate George W. Phillips, foreman; M. F. Haynie, H. M. Graves, R. F. McClaren, J. R. Fordman, O. L. Grimes, J. L. Johnson, Ray Hardy, W. E. Wright, James Martin, J. W. Deathridge, C. B. Casey and City Councilman Tony St. Charles.

Petit jurors for the two divisions of criminal court were also named for the January term.

In Part 1 they are: C. M. Gadsey, Second district; L. E. Campbell, Third district; J. R. Jackson, Fourth district; Douglas McPherson, Fifth district; J. H. May, Seventh district; H. T. Hope, Eighth district; Henry Hackelbell, Fourth district; and S. J. Morton, J. F. Kirschner, O. B. Ray, T. C. Welck and John Mellott of the city.

Petit jurors for Part 2 are: A. S. McMahon, Second district; John Hurt, Third District; B. Warpoole, Fourth district; H. C. Chilton, Fifth district; W. H. Roberts, Eighth district; Charles Richards, Thirteenth district; and A. P. Gant, W. H. Cato, T. R. Allen, Jim McCord, F. H. Poteet and W. F. Benske of the city.

Tenn. Postmaster Fired Following Lynching

New York Age

Robert Hancock, acting postmaster at Glendale, Tenn., whose automobile was one of the two used in the abduction and lynching of Cordie Cheek on December 15, is now among the unemployed following demands of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to Postmaster General James A. Farley for his discharge.

New York

A letter received from W. W. Howes, first assistant postmaster general, by Walter White, the Association's secretary, reads:

"As the result of an investigation at that office (Glendale), the Department has decided to make a change in the postmastership and telegraphic instructions have been issued to a post office inspector to install Mr. Chesley Porter Check as acting postmaster at Glendale to displace Mr. Robert Hancock."

It seems rather poetic justice that the last name of the new Glendale postmaster is the same as that of the lynched Negro who had been discharged by the Maury County, Tenn., grand jury on a charge of attempted assault on a white child.

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
February 22, 1934

Reopen Investigation Of Mob Lynching of Negro

Columbia, Tenn., Feb. 22—(Special)—Several witnesses have been summoned to appear before the Maury County Grand Jury, now in session, to tell what they know concerning the lynching of Cordie Cheek, Negro, in the Glendale community several weeks ago.

The Negro, charged with an attempted criminal assault upon a ten-year-old white girl was seized by a party of men, said to have been residents of Maury County, shortly after he had been released from the county jail at Nashville where he had been taken some time before for safe keeping.

A few hours after the Negro was seized his lifeless body was found hanging from a limb near Glendale.

GRAND JURY IS PROBING DEATH OF NEGRO HERE

NINE SUBPOENAS, FOR COUNTY OFFICERS AND NEIGHBORS, BEEN ISSUED, SHERIFF SAYS.

RECESS THURSDAY LIKELY CONTINUE WORK NEXT WEEK

Investigation That Started With Much Fanfare At Nashville Seemingly Has Died Down, No Action.

The Maury county grand jury which organized Monday at the opening of the February term of circuit court, today began an investigation of the lynching of Cordie Cheek, 19 Glendale negro accused of an attempted criminal attack on a 11-year-old white girl at Glendale November 16

Nine Maury countians, including both officers who investigated after the lynching and neighbors of the Glendale community six miles south of here, have been subpoenaed, it was stated by Sheriff Claude Godwin.

The officers include Sheriff Godwin and Deputies Anderson Pinkston and Norman Batts, who answered the anonymous telephone call saying that a negro was hanging from a cedar tree at Glendale, and Coroner Bert Erwin, who was called to the scene shortly afterward, Sheriff Godwin said.

Indications are that hearing of all witnesses summoned will not be completed today and that the grand jury will adjourn for Washington's birthday, to meet again Friday or Monday to continue the investigation.

The body of the dead negro was found on the night of December 15, hanging from a tree at the forks of two main-traveled state roads where the Culleoka highway branches off the Lewisburg highway. He had been shot as well as hung, wounds indicated.

The next day it developed at Nashville that he had been kidnapped from the home of a relative by two carloads of armed men, in automobiles bearing Maury county licenses, within a short time after he had been released by Sheriff Bauman of Davidson county, after he had been held there for safekeeping since he was given up by relatives the day after the alleged attack. At that time he was taken to an unannounced jail (which proved later to have been at Pulaski) and later taken to Nashville secretly.

While the negro was being held in Nashville the Maury county grand jury of the November term of court was in session. No one appeared against the negro, however, and no indictment was found against him. It was stated later that members of the girl's family did not press the case because they did not wish to have her appear in court as a witness.

After the grand jury had adjourned, Sheriff Bauman asked for instructions and was notified by Sheriff Claude Godwin of this county, in writing, that there were no charges against Cheek here, and that he could be turned loose. The negro was freed about 3 o'clock on the afternoon of December 15, and was given instructions as to how to get to the home of a relative. Within less than an hour and a half, according to statements made at Nashville, he had been kidnapped, and that night about 7:30 o'clock his body was found here. Whether he was killed in Nashville en route here, or at the scene of the hanging, has never been established, as far as known.

The case attracted nation-wide attention and Governor Hill McAlister, after a conference with leading citizens of Nashville, offered a reward of $1000 for the arrest and conviction of those responsible.

Sheriff Bauman of Davidson, saying the kidnapping occurred in his county, announced the launching of a complete investigation, and summoned a number of Maury countians before the grand jury, but only Sheriff Godwin and perhaps one other were ever heard there.

No news of the investigation being pressed at Nashville has come out recently.

Sheriff Bauman and Attorney-General Richard M. Atkisson, announcing they had received anonymous letters from Maury giving information, made a visit here, announcing beforehand that they planned to interview all concerned and ferret out information. So far as could be learned, the only person they interviewed while here was the little girl, and after that the publicity regarding the case died down.

So far as is known, no action has been taken by the Davidson grand jury, in whose county the kidnapping occurred, and where, according to some theories, the death of the negro may also have occurred.

The first intimation locally as to whether or not there would be a grand jury investigation here came today, Judge W. B. Turner in his regular charge to the grand jury Monday not having mentioned any Maury county crimes of recent months specifically.

Sheriff Godwin, when called to testify at Nashville, was quoted, however, as saying there that "I will put all the evidence I can possibly get before the Maury county grand jury. Then I'll bet ten to one there will be no indictments. If I were a private citizen I would probably do something else."

NASHVILLE, TENN.
MORNING TENNESSEAN

FEB 22 1934

GRAND JURY IN MAURY SIFTS NEGRO LYNCHING

COLUMBIA, Tenn., Feb. 21 — (Spl) — The Maury county grand jury today began an investigation of the lynching of Cordie Cheek, 19, Glendale negro, accused of an attempted criminal attack on a 11-year-old white girl at Glendale, November 16.

Nine Maury countians, including officers who investigated after the lynching and neighbors of the Glendale community, six miles south of here, have been subpoened, it was stated by Sheriff Claude Godwin.

The officers include Sheriff Godwin, Deputies Anderson Pinkston and Norman Batts, who answered the anonymous telephone call saying that a negro was hanging from a tree at Glendale, and Coroner Bert Erwin, who was called to the scene shortly afterward, Sheriff Godwin said.

The body of the negro was found on the night of December 15, hanging from a tree at the forks of two state roads where the Culleoka highway branches off the Lewisburg highway. He had been shot as well as hung, wounds indicated.

The next day it developed at Nashville that he had been kidnaped from the home of a relative by two carloads of armed men, in autos bearing Maury license plates within a short time after he had been released by Sheriff L. A. Bauman of Davidson county. He had been held at Nashville for safekeeping since he was given up by relatives the day after the alleged attack.

While the negro was being held in Nashville the Maury grand jury of the November term of court was in session. No one appeared against the negro, however, and no indictment was found against him. It was stated later that members of the little girl's family did not press the case because they did not wish to have her appear in court as a witness.

NASHVILLE, TENN.
MORNING TENNESSEAN

FEB 23 1934

DAVIDSON JURY REPORT OF LYNCHING REQUESTED

COLUMBIA, Tenn., Feb. 22.—(Spl.)—A report of the Davidson county grand jury's investigation of the kidnaping of Cordie Cheek, 19, Glendale negro, last December 15, was requested today by Atty.-Gen. C. L. Boyd.

General Boyd said he sent the request to Atty.-Gen. Richard M Atkinson and Sheriff L. A. Bauman of Davidson county and if the material in the report warrants it he will summon them to appear before the Maury county grand jury that began an investigation yesterday of the kidnaping and lynching.

The grand jury continued its investigations here today despite the announcement that the jury probably would adjourn for Washington's birthday anniversary.

No indictments have been retured by the Davidson body, but General Atkinson has declared that the case is still open and further action there possible.

Of the current investigation being conducted here General Boyd said, "If the guilty parties can be ascertained. of course, we'll push the case."

The lynching of Cheek followed his arrest last November on a charge of criminally attacking an 11-year-old white girl. He was taken to Nashville for safe-keeping. When witnesses failed to appear against him before the Maury grand jury for the November term of court, he was orderd released from the Nashville jail.

Condemnation of mob action by ministerial and other organizations developed as the lynching drew national attention, and Gov. Hill McAlister posted a reward of $1,000 for arrest and conviction within one year of members of the lynch band.

NASHVILLE, TENN.
BANNER

FEB 22 1934

Reopen Investigation Of Mob Lynching of Negro

Columbia, Tenn., Feb. 22—(Special)—Several witnesses have been summoned to appear before the Maury County Grand Jury, now in session, to tell what they know concerning the lynching of Cordie Cheek, Negro, in the Glendale community several weeks ago.

The Negro, charged with an attempted criminal assault upon a ten-year-old white girl was seized by a party of men, said to have been residents of Maury County, shortly after he had been released from the county jail at Nashville where he had been taken some time before for safe keeping.

A few hours after the Negro was seized his lifeless body was found hanging from a limb near Glendale.

NASHVILLE, TENN.
EVE. TENNESSEAN

MAR 1 1934

MAURY GRANDJURY MUM ON LYNCHING

Cheek Case Not Among Bills Returned in Second Report.

COLUMBIA, Tenn.—(Spl)— The Maury County grand jury's continued "investigation" of the murder of Cordie Cheek, negro, who was lynched near here several months ago, showed no results in the second report of the present term of court yesterday.

Cheek was arrested for an assault made on a white girl at Glendale, eight miles from here, and sent to the Davidson County jail at Nashville for safety from mob violence.

When the Maury County grand jury failed to indict him he was freed in Nashville. The same afternoon that he was freed he was kidnaped from the home of relatives in Nashville, returned to Maury County and shot and lynched near the scene of the attack on the child.

The grand jury here returned eleven indictments in its report yesterday. The jury was expected to adjourn Thursday after inspecting county institutions, but remain subject to call until the next term of court.

Texas.

Lynchings - 1934
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

BRONX HOME NEWS
JUN 22 1934

Police Probe Texas Lynching

Investigations are being conducted today by authorities of Newton, Tex., to identify members of the mob which yesterday lynched John Griggs, 38, colored, after tearing him from an automobile in which he was being conveyed for safekeeping to a nearby town by two deputies. Fearing for the safety of Griggs, who was arrested on charges of vagrancy and associating with a white woman, authorities asked him if he would be willing to be transported under guard to Orange. He agreed eagerly. An angry mob of about 150 white men intercepted the automobile, tore Griggs from his protectors, riddled his body with 17 bullets as it hung suspended from a tree, and then dragged it behind another automobile before depositing it near a box factory at Newton.

AMARILLO, TEX.
DAILY NEWS
JUN 25 1934

WHITE MAN IS HELD IN NEGRO LYNCHING

NEWTON, Tex., June 23 (AP)—A young white man was still held in jail here today as an investigation proceeded into the lynching of John Griggs, 30-year-old negro, near Newton Wednesday night.

No charges had been filed and Hollis Kinard, district attorney, said in Beaumont that, on the basis of information he had, only misdemeanor accusation could be lodged against him. Arrested Wednesday night, he was held as the escort of a girl who allegedly was attacked by the negro.

A mob of 150 men and women took Griggs from officers who were taking him to Orange for safekeeping, hanged him to a tree, shot him, cut down the body and then dragged it about the country behind an automobile.

VICTORIA, TEX.
ADVOCATE
JUN 22 1934

TWO QUESTIONED

IN LYNCHING OF NEGRO AT NEWTON

NEWTON, Texas, June 22.—A young white man was held in jail here Thursday night as officers probed the lynching Wednesday of a negro accused of associating with an 18-year-old white girl.

The man in custody, said Sheriff P. S. Hughes, denied any connection with the lynching,, which occurred on the lonely road to Orange, where two deputy sheriffs were rushing the negro for safekeeping as a mob of 150 men and women stormed the county jail for Son Griggs, 30, negro laborer.

No charges had been filed against the man in custody, the sheriff said, as he pointed out that the man was held for questioning.

Griggs, who was arrested by Sheriff Hughes when the officer found an 18-year-old white girl in the negro's quarters, was hanged to a tree on the roadside by a mob of men and women who blocked the highway and took the negro prisoner from Deputy Sheriffs G. A. Smith and W. E. Davis. Seventeen shots were fired into the negro's body before it was cut down, attached to the rear of an automobile and dragged over the county and finally thrown in the yard of a box factory commissary, where the negro lived.

The girl, memper of a prominent Newton family, said she apparently had been drugged. She was held in jail here on a charge of vagrancy and was under the care of a physician, the sheriff said.

Her white companion of Tuesday night, the night of the asserted attack by Griggs, told officers he and the girl had been drinking, the sheriff said. Becoming intoxicated he wandered away, leaving the girl beside a road, it was reported.

Sheriff Hughes said he went to the negro's home and found the girl in Grigg's bed.

"She apparently had been drugged or something," said the sheriff. "Obviously the negro had attacked her."

Both the girl and the negro were placed in jail and Wednesday there was talk of mob violence over Newton.

At 10 p. m. Wednesday, the sheriff said, a mob of men and women began forming and he ushered the negro, who claimed he was intoxicated when the alleged attack occurred, from the rear door of the jail and placed him in an automobile with the two deputies, who were instructed to rush the prisoner to Orange for safekeeping.

"'The deputies," the sheriff explained, "found the highway blocked 25 miles from here and a mob armed with guns took the prisoner and the officers' guns. The officers were ordered to 'get going.'

"The deputies came back here and reported the mob to me and I called the county attorney and we rushed back to the scene. We followed a trail of blood from the scene to where the negro's body was tied to the rear of an automobile and dragged away."

The sheriff said authorities would continue to investigate the lynching.

"I don't know," said the sheriff "whether any charges will be filed in the case. We are going to keep investigating it and try to get to the bottom of it."

BEAUMONT, TEX.
ENTERPRISE
17
JUN 23 1934

YOUTH HELD IN LYNCHING CASE

Newton Man Said to Have Been With Girl Attacked By Negro

Special to The Enterprise.

NEWTON, Texas, June 22.—Pending the arrival here of Hollis Kinard of Orange, district attorney, a Newton man about 20 years old is being held by the sheriff's department in connection with events that led to the lynching Wednesday night of John Griggs, negro.

Charges have not yet been filed nor is it known what the nature of the complaint will be if Kinard takes action against the man.

The youth is suspected of being a leader of the mob which lynched Griggs after he had been charged with vagrancy, keeping a house of disorderly conduct and associating with a white woman. The latter, who is also being held, has admitted that the negro assaulted her Tuesday night when she was drunk and "evidently drugged."

It is understood that she was the companion of the youth in custody earlier that evening, but that after the pair had been drinking he wandered off and left her, after which the negro found her and took her to his home.

WACO, TEX.
TRIBUNE
JUN 25 1934

Rounding Up Lynchers

Sheriff and His Deputies at Newton Plan to Make Arrests

NEWTON, June 24.—(AP)—Twenty men said to be the nucleus of the mob of 200 which Wednesday night lynched John Griggs, negro, near here for an assault on a white woman, will be under arrest within the next 24 hours, according to a statement made by Pete S. Hughes, sheriff of Newton county.

MARSHALL, TEX.
NEWS
JUN 23 1934

ESCORT OF GIRL ASSAULTED BY NEGRO IS HELD

Nature of Charges to Be Filed Against Youth Not Known

Newton, Texas, June 22. (UP).—A 25-year old Newton, Texas, youth, who was escort of a 17-year old white girl Tuesday night when she was attacked by a negro, was to be placed under charges today as an aftermath of the lynching of the negro near here Wednesday night.

District Attorney Hollis Tinard of Orange, who ordered the youth held pending filing of charges, was to come here today and take charge of the case. No indication was given as to the nature of the charges to be filed against the youth.

Both the boy and the girl are members of prominent East Texas families.

Sheriff T. S. Hughes said his investigation showed that the youth and the girl had been drinking and that the youth wandered off after he had taken the girl to a box factory on the outskirts of town.

The negro, John Griggs, 38, found the girl and took her to his home, where they were found by Hughes and county health officer H. S. Hall, Hughes said.

The girl told officers she thought she had been drugged and did not know what happened.

She, too, is being held in jail pending completion of the investigation of the attack and the lynching, the sheriff said.

The negro was forcibly taken from two deputy sheriffs who were taking him to Orange for safe keeping, after a disorderly group of men and women gathered in front of the old Newton County Jail. The negro was hanged by a mob of 200 men, and his body shot 17 times. The body then was dragged behind an automobile back to Newton and left in front of the box factory where he worked.

4874

NASHVILLE, TENN.
MORNING TENNESSEAN

JUN 29 1934

A Lynching Is Punished.

Eight white men on last Saturday night violated the codes of decency of their own race and of the negro race, by attending a negro church festival in Coffee County, and when a negro man defended himself aganst attack from one of their number, they caught him after a two-hour search and lynched him.

The killing was marked by unusual brutality, the victim being stripped of clothing and his body mutilated and left in a field, where it was found Sunday morning by a group of searchers including the men on whose farm the negro had been a tenant.

One of the alleged lynchers took his 14-year-old stepson on the lynching party and in order to make their crime more revolting the killers "borrowed" an ax from the woodpile of a home in the vicinity of which they shot and hacked their victim to death.

The owner of this ax and the 14-year-old unwilling member of the lynching party appeared before magistrates in Manchester and gave testimony against the killers. They were held to the grand jury without bail.

It was a sordid business from beginning to end. [illegible] crime was an affront to a whole community. If gone unpunished it would have damaged relations between the white and negro citizens of a section where such relations are traditionally friendly. But the good citizens of Coffee County have shown just resentment. As proof of the regard in which the slain negro was held, a large number of white people attended his funeral, and the desire that the killers be punished brought the wheels of justice into quick action.

The grand jury will not meet until September, so the alleged killers will spend the summer in prison waiting for that body to consider the charges against them. It can be taken for granted that Attorney-General Lamb, whose first investigation of the matter resulted in their being held to the grand jury, will not fail to pursue the case to the end that final and complete justice will prevail. It is a matter for congratulation that the lynching is not to go unpunished.

NASHVILLE, TENN.
EVE. TENNESSEAN

JUN 26 1934

Coffee County's Lynching.

The unusual feature about Coffee County's lynching case is that it has been followed by quick arrests. The group which abducted a negro who had previously had trouble with a white man at a Saturday night negro church festival, made the mistake of taking along a boy of fourteen years, who became thoroughly frightened when approached by officers, and "gave it all away."

An expedition of this kind was no place for such a youth, and it is not surprising that, regardless of how determined he may have been to adhere to the usual code of silence, he was unable to keep the gruesome details secret. His story has brought eight men to the bar of justice on charges of murder, and though it is difficult to say how local sentiment will affect the ultimate verdict, Sheriff Huffman and his deputies have at least demonstrated that they are evading no responsibility.

The best citizenship of Coffee County will not be proud of this calculated and brutal crime, and the state regrets to see another black mark placed against it on the score of lynching.

CLEVELAND, TENN.
BANNER

JUN 26 1934

COLOR NO JUSTIFICATION OF BRUTAL CRIME

Coffee County, Tennessee, with Manchester as the seat of government, was the scene early Sunday of the brutal murder of a Negro, allegedly by eight white men, and from press accounts of the crime it was of the most brutal type and wholly unjustifiable.

To begin with the eight white men held for investigation had no business, drunk or sober, at a Negro dance that was being staged by the colored folk in a rural community and their intrusion at the dance with the objective of breaking it up was an overbearing incident. It is said that a Negro hit a white man and the slaying was termed an "act of vengeance." We believe that a Negro should stay in his place and that they usually do, but the same rule should apply to the whites. They should stay in their place and that place is not at a Negro dance.

Coffee county law officials are to be congratulated on the prompt arrest of the alleged slayers and from accounts of the brutality of the murder the supreme penalty should be given them, as they proceeded to the colored man's home, destroyed his furnishings and then stripped him of his clothing, carried him away badly beaten and shot him several times, leaving him dead in an oat field. The Negro is a human being and was undeserving of any such treatment. We find that the average Negro is about as peaceful a human being as God has created and rightly handled is a most useful citizen.

Alabama has demanded the death of eight negro boys, possibly rightfully so, for rape of two white girls. Now will Tennessee press as hard for the conviction of eight whites who brutally murdered an unmolesting Negro?

BEAUMONT, TEX.
JOURNAL

JUN 27 1934

Threats Received In Lynching Case By Newton Officer

NEWTON, Texas, July 27. — Threatening letters concerning the lynching of John Griggs, negro, in Newton last Wednesday have been received by Sheriff Pete Hughes, heading the investigation into the lynching. Some of the letters have been sent from Chicago and Houston, coming from negro organizations and individuals, the sheriff said. Governor Ferguson has promised assistance to the sheriff in the investigation of both the letters and the lynching.

The sheriff plans to turn some of the letters over to federal authorities as violations of the postal laws. He is investigating some personally.

The white girl, who was charged jointly with the negro with vagrancy after being found with him Tuesday night, June 19, and the white boy, alleged to have been the girl's escort on the night of the assault, are still being held but have been transferred from the Newton jail to another east Texas jail.

The sheriff is in Houston with a sick member of his family, it is said.

AUSTIN, TEX.
STATESMAN

JUN 23 1934

GIRL'S ESCORT HELD IN NEGRO LYNCHING

NEWTON, June 23.—(AP).—A young white man was still held in jail here today as an investigation proceeded into the lynching of John Griggs, 30-year-old negro, near Newton Wednesday night.

No charges had been filed and Hollis Kinard, district attorney, said in Beaumont, on the basis of information he had, only a misdemeanor accusation could be lodged against him. Arrested Wednesday night, he was held as the escort of a girl who allegedly was attacked by the negro.

A mob of 150 men and women took Griggs from officers who were taking him to Orange for safekeeping, hanged him to a tree, shot him, cut down the body and then dragged it about the country behind an automobile.

PORT ARTHUR, TEX.
NEWS

JUN 24 1934

PROBE LYNCHING

Suspect Held In Hanging Of Newton Negro

NEWTON, Tex., June 23 (AP).—A young white man was still held in jail here today as an investigation proceeded into the lynching of John Griggs, 30-year-old negro, near Newton Wednesday night.

No charges had been filed and Hollis Kinard, district attorney, said in Beaumont that, on the basis of information he had, only a misdemeanor accusation could be lodged against him. Arrested Wednesday night, he was held as the escort of a girl who allegedly was attacked by the negro.

A mob of 150 men and women took Griggs from officers who were taking him to Orange for safekeeping, hanged him to a tree, shot him, cut down the body and then dragged it about the country behind an automobile.

BRYAN, TEX.
EAGLE

JUN 25 1934

No Charges Filed Yet in Lynching Of Newton Negro

NEWTON, June 25.—(AP)—No charges have yet been filed here in connection with the lynching last week of John Griggs, negro, who was wrested from officers after being held for vagrancy, keeping a house of disorderly conduct and associating with a white woman.

D. W. Smith, deputy sheriff of Newton county, said Sunday afternoon that District Attorney Hollis Kinard of Orange was continuing investigations, but that filing of any charges appeared unlikely before Monday, if then.

A white youth said to have been with the woman in the case before she was found with the negro is still being held, but no other arrests have been made.

MONT, TEX.

JUN 24 1934

Arrest of Newton Lynching Leaders Soon Is Promised

NEWTON, Texas, June 23. — About 20 men holding prominent positions in the mob of 200 that lynched John Griggs, negro near here Wednesday night, will be under arrest in the next 24 hours, it was announced here this evening by Pete S. Hughes, sheriff of Newton county.

The negro had been charged with vagrancy, keeping a house of disorderly conduct, and associating with a white woman. He was taken from officers Wednesday night, hanged, and his bullet-riddled body dragged for miles behind automobiles.

A white youth, said to have been with the white woman prior to the attack by the negro, is being held pending an investigation of the lynching.

Lynchings-1934

Legal Punishment of Lynchers

Texas.

4727

(2)

HARLINGEN, TEX.
VALLEY MORNING STAR

JUN 24 1934

Officers To Arrest Twenty In Lynching

NEWTON, Tex., June 23. —(AP) —Twenty men said to be the nucleus of the mob of 200 which Wednesday night lynched John Griggs, negro, near here, for an assault on a white woman, will be under arrest within the next 24 hours, according to a statement made this evening by Pete S. Hughes, sheriff of Newton county.

A white youth being held by officers as a possible leader of the mob, and who is said to have been with the assault victim shortly before the negro's attack, has still not been charged in connection with the lynching. It is believed now that he had no part in the actual lynching.

BEAUMONT, TEX.
ENTERPRISE

JUN 26 1934

Only 20 Persons in Mob That Hung Negro Says Newton Sheriff

Special to The Enterprise

NEWTON, Texas, June 25.—Newton county officers said tolay they now believe there were but about 20 men in the mob that Wednesday night lynched John Griggs, negro, near here, after wresting him from officers.

Pete Hughes, sheriff, expects to make arrests soon in the case. The white girl, whom the negro is alleged to have attacked, and a youth said to have been with the girl prior to the attack, are still being held in custody, pending the outcome of Sheriff Hughes, investigation.

SAN ANGELO, TEX.
STANDARD

JUN 24 1934

[illegible] Mob Suspects Held

NEWTON, Tex., June 23. (AP)—Twenty men said to be the nucleus of the mob of 200 which Wednesday night lynched John Griggs, negro, near here for an assault on a white woman, will be under arrest within the next 24 hours, according to a statement made this evening by Pete S. Hughes. sheriff of Newton county.

Lynchings - 1934
Legislation Relating to.

4729

Best Anti-Lynching Measure

Tribune
12-29-34
Washington D.C.

The best anti-lynching legislation was the kind used last week at Shelbyville, Tenn., where a mob of whites were not only frustrated when it attempted to lynch a youth, but four of its number were shot and killed by National Guardsmen.

The 550 guardsmen sent to the town to insure peace cost the State approximately $5,000 a day.

United States Commissioner Edward Hance urged militant steps be taken to combat fresh trouble from mobsters. He told a vigilante committee, "If we have to kill some of these fellows, let's just kill them. If we have to die, let's die."

For the first time in history a real attempt has been made to stop a bloodthirsty mob. If the boy was guilty of the crime alleged he should be punished, but he is due a fair trial in a court of justice.

Four lives and $15,000 will make other would-be mobbists in Tennessee stop and consider and even the Eastern Shore of Maryland would hesitate to kill a human if the authorities would make a similar effort to prevent it.

Lumberton, N. C. Robesonian
December 10, 1934

MORE STRINGENT ANTI-LYNCHING LAWS WANTED

Committee to Draw up Bill—Legislative Recommendations.

The North Carolina Commission on Inter-racial Cooperation at its 16th annual conference in Raleigh last week took action looking to more stringent anti-lynching laws. A committee was named to prepare a proper bill to present to the next General Assembly.

Three of the legislative recommendations of the commission were identical with three presented to the state legislative council by the North Carolina conference for social service. They were:

(1) That the state assume full responsibility for the enlargement and support of the industrial school for negro girls at Efland, now supported partially by the state and partially by private donations; (2) that adequate care be provided for mental defectives of both races; and (3) that the state departments of education, health and public welfare be supported in their programs.

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL RECEIVES MASS SUPPORT

Groups Representing 42 Millions On Record To Seek Passage

Post

By Max Stern
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

12-28-34
Birmingham Ala.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—Organizations representing total memberships of 42 million Americans from church, labor and other circles are on record as favoring passage of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill in the coming session of Congress.

The measure will be reintroduced at an early date by Senators Costigan (D., Colo.) and Wagner (D., N. Y.). This measure, already given extended hearings, provides Federal fines of from $2000 to $10,000 may be imposed upon counties in which lynchings have been permitted. The fines collected would be turned over to the victims' heirs.

Ask 'Unequivocal Action'

In a memorial to President Roosevelt a group of 48 organizations urged the Chief Executive to put the Costigan-Wagner bill on his "must" program in his opening address to Congress.

"Only unequivocal action by yourself as the leader of American opinion can overcome the objections even to a vote on the measure by a small group in the Senate who prevented a vote during the last session of Congress," says the memorial.

"In behalf of the good name of America we respectfully urge immediate action upon the convening of Congress to the end that the Federal Government may give aid, as it has in the case of kidnaping, to the states in stamping out this notorious American crime."

Florida Lynching Cited

The memorial cites the "shameless abduction" of a prisoner from Alabama to Florida as an example of the lynch evil. Since 1882, it says, 5068 persons have been lynched in the United States, with less than a dozen convictions. During 1934 there were 18 lynchings, yet while the Costigan-Wagner bill was pending there was a complete cessation of the crime for six months. After Congress adjourned without action on it 16 lynchings occurred.

"The organizations backing the anti-lynching measure include Young Women's Christian Assn., Young Men's Christian Assn., Writers' League Against Lynching, Maryland Anti-Lynching Federation, Congregational Commission on Lynching, City-Wide Forum of Baltimore, Md., Committee on Race Relations of the Society of Friends, the Federal Council of Churches, the League for Industrial Democracy, the Church League for Industrial Democracy, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the Josephite Order of Baltimore, Md., American Civil Liberties Union, National Urban League;

The Methodist Federation of Social Service, the Interdenominational Preachers Meeting of New York and Vicinity, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Women's Missionary Council of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., Social Justice Commission of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, National Student Council of the Y. W. C. A., Public Affairs Committee of the Y. W. C. A.;

American Federation of Teachers, Winter Capital Lodge of Elks, New Orleans, La. (Winter Capital Lodge No. 595, I. B. P. O. E. W.) (signers of petition), Oakland, Cal., Council of Church Women, Twenty-second District Republican Club of New York, Hartford, Conn., Federation of Churches, City Council of Cleveland, O., Holy Name Society of Our Lady Queen of the Angels Church, Newark, N. J., Nashville, Tenn., Pastors Assn, New York State Assembly, Indiana State Assembly, City Council of Duluth, Minn., Toledo, O., Council of Churches, Unity Circle of the First Unitarian Church, Des Moines, Ia., Chicago Committee on Anti-Lynching Legislation, Protestant Episcopal Church, New Jersey State Legislature, International Youth Movement, El Paso, Tex., Woman's City Movement Club, Congregational and Christian Churches, New York City Congregational Church Asssciation, Chautauqua Circle, Atlanta ,Ga., National Baptist Convention, American Federation of Labor.

Roosevelt Influence Sought for Lynch Bill

Constitution

12-30-34

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—(UP)—A drive to place the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill on the administration's "must" program of legislation in the next congress, was launched tonight by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Nine governors, 27 mayors, 55 noted church officials and 52 college presidents signed a memorial addressed to President Roosevelt urging him to take a stand against "killing and burning alive of human beings by mobs in the United States."

Atlanta, Ga.

Among the signers were Bishop William T. Manning, of New York; President James R. Angell, of Yale; Governor Herbert Lehman, of New York; President John J. Tigert, of the University of Florida, and Sinclair Lewis, the author.

ASK PRESIDENT TO AID ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Notables Sign Petition Presented by Association for Advancement of Colored.

Times

12-30-34
New York, N.Y.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Nine Governors and Governors-elect, twenty-seven Mayors, fifty-eight churchmen, fifty-four college presidents and professors and 109 lawyers, editors, writers, jurists and other distinguished citizens have joined in signing a memorial addressed to President Roosevelt urging that in his opening address to Congress he place the Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynching Bill on his "must" program.

The memorial was transmitted to the President today by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Among the signers are Bishop William T. Manning of New York; James R. Angell, president of Yale University; Professor Paul H. Douglas of the University of Chicago; John J. Tigert, president of the University of Florida; H. M. McCracken, president of Vassar College; Governors Lehman of New York, Landon of Kansas and Buck of Delaware; Zachariah Chaffee Jr. of the Harvard Law School; Rupert Hughes, Elmer Rice, Charles Edward Russell, Mary Van Kleeck of the Russell Sage Foundation, Lillian D. Wald, James Weldon Johnson and Sinclair Lewis.

Southern signers include Mayor T. A. Penny of Tulsa, Okla.; the Right Rev. E. Cecil Seaman, Episcopal Bishop of North Texas; the Right Rev. John D. Wing, Episcopal Bishop of South Florida; Professor Albert E. Barnett of Scarritt College, Nashville, Tenn.; Professors Charles A. Ellwood and Howard Jensen of Duke University; W. J. McConnell, president of North Texas Teachers College; Guy R. Snavely, president of Birmingham-Southern College; Walter Williams, president of the University of Missouri; Mayor Howard W. Jackson of Baltimore; Mayor R. P. DeVan of Charleston, W. Va.; W. E. Woodward and Erskine Caldwell.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
ITEM

DEC 13 1934

Lynching Act Next?

IT IS worth noting that when Mr. Roosevelt asked this week for state and national co-operation against crime and criminals he denounced "horrifying lynchings" along with "appalling kidnapings" and "widespread drug peddling." He extended his remark on lynching by saying, "It is no longer confined to one section of the Country unfortunately," thereby classifying it as a national evil.

At times here of late lynchings that have affected both races have been as pronounced in Eastern, Northern and Western states as Southern lynchings in which Negroes are usually the victims.

The emphasis the President puts on the subject is very likely to prove significant of his attitude toward Federal legislation on it. Senator Costigan of Colorado has already given notice that he will bring again into Congress an act against this crime. If the President's state of mind is betokened by his words this week, it is likely to be even harder to beat a Federal act against lynching than it was when Senator Harrison had to read the Bible to his colleagues for many hours in order to stall off a favorable vote on one.

TORONTO, ONT.
MAIL & EMPIRE

DEC 21 1934

ANTI-LYNCHING LAW IN U.S. PREDICTED.

Since 1882 there have been 5,068 lynchings in the United States, and 45 since Franklin Roosevelt became President, some of them as horrible as that of Claude Neal, described in the Fourth Column on Tuesday. In most cases lynchings could have been avoided if the local officers of the law had resisted the mobs. Again and again it has happened that a couple of courageous policemen or deputy sheriffs have stood off menacing crowds of hundreds. It is not because of the danger they would run by defying mobs that elected officials surrender prisoners to lynching gangs, but the danger they would run of not being re-elected, and perhaps of having promising political careers nipped in the bud. The sheriffs and other peace officers conform to what they believe to be prevailing public sentiment. If the people want to lynch the negroes they bow to the will of the people, despite their oaths of office. It rarely happens that one of these recreant officers is punished for being a consenting party to a lynching.

For many years efforts have been made to pass a Federal anti-lynching law which would take out of the hands of local authorities the prosecution of officers who fail to do their duty in protecting prisoners. These have always been resisted successfully by southern states although some of them, notably North Carolina and Virginia, have anti-lynching laws designed to the same end; and these laws, while they have not wholly abolished lynching, have tended to curb it. It is believed, however, that the Costigan-Wagner bill has a better chance of adoption by Congress than its predecessors. This hope is based on the fact that Southern Democrats are now in a minority in both House of Representatives and Senate. Northern and Western Democrats are no more in favor of lynching than Northern and Western Republicans. They have no sectional prejudices to fear in the matter of a national anti-lynching bill.

As a matter of common sense, wholly apart from morality, there never was the slightest justification for the lynching of negroes in the southern states. It used to be pretended that lynching was necessary to protect white women. But if there is any crime anywhere in the world which is more certain than any other crime of being punished by law it is the attack of a white woman by a negro. The law officers are all white. The jury is exclusively white. The crime is one particularly abhorred by whites. What chance then has a guilty negro once he has been caught of escaping the severest punishment? He can neither bribe nor flatter his way to freedom. He is without political influence. He has, in fact, no more chance than a dog convicted of sheep killing in a farming community.

Talladega, Ala., Home
December 31, 1934

ROOSEVELT INFLUENCE SOUGHT FOR LYNCH BILL

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—A drive to place the Costigan-Wagner anti lynching bill on the administration's "much" program of legislation in the next congress, was launched Saturday by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Nine governors, 27 mayors, 55 noted church officials and 52 college presidents signed a memorial addressed to President Doosevelt urging him to take a stand against "killing and burning alive of human beings by mobs in the United States."

Among the signers were Bishop William T. Manning, of New York; President James R. Angell, of Yale; Governor Herbert Lehman, of New York; President John J. Tigert, of the University of Florida, and Sinclair Lewis, the author.

Asheville N.C.
Citizen
Nov 6 '34

Federal Anti-Lynching Law

As was to have been expected, the recent Florida lynching has revived the agitation for the enactment by Congress of a Federal anti-lynching law. This newspaper, denouncing and deploring mob violence in any form, would profoundly regret the enactment of a measure of this character. The possibility that such a law may get through Congress has grown however, and must be reckoned with.

There are a number of reasons why it is becoming harder to defeat a Federal anti-lynching bill. One reason is that public sentiment revolts at certain types of lynching more strongly than it did. Twenty-five or thirty years ago there were eighty to a hundred lynchings every year. People deplored these outbursts of savagery but took them as something that could not be helped. Now, when there are from ten to twenty-five lynchings a year, they are likely to excite a greater indignation than when they were far more numerous; especially so when, as in the case of the recent Florida lynching, the actions of the mob are particularly revolting.

This being true, and the whole trend of the times being to increase and extend the powers of the central government, the pressure for a Federal statute is gaining while the opposition is getting weaker. Twenty years ago we think that every Southern newspaper would have fought a Federal anti-lynching law. The Atlanta Constitution is now an advocate of a law of this kind.

We are not predicting the passage of a Federal anti-lynching law at the coming session of Congress. We do not expect that. But it is in order to note that the situation has changed and is changing; and the only effective answer to the clamor for legislation which in our opinion would be vicious in principle and vicious in practice is for the States in which lynchings are threatened or occur to assert their own powers to prevent these mob outbursts if that be possible or, to bring those who engage in them to trial where lynchings are perpetrated.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
HERALD

DEC 30 1934

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL PRESSED ON PRESIDENT

Plea Delivered at White House Points to 5,068 Mob Killings Since '82, Dozen Convictions

A strong plea that President Roosevelt place the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynch bill on his schedule of "must" legislation for this Congress was delivered to the White House yesterday by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Among the hundreds of signers of a memorial to the President on the plan were 9 governors, 27 mayors, 55 distinguished churchmen, 52 college presidents and professors, and 92 editors, jurists and other prominent persons.

SOUTHERNERS SIGN

Southerners from Florida to Missouri, including mayors and college heads, were on the list.

The memorial stated:

"The killing and burning alive of human beings by mobs in the United States is a reproach upon our nation throughout the civilized world. The recent shameless abduction of a prisoner and transportation across the State line from Alabama and Florida to be lynched, with the crime advertised throughout the nation 12 hours in advance, is a notorious example of the complete breakdown of the machinery of justice which has grown out of the lynching evil.

"Since 1882, 5,068 human beings have been lynched in the United States, with less than a dozen convictions; in each of these cases only nominal prison terms were given the lynchers."

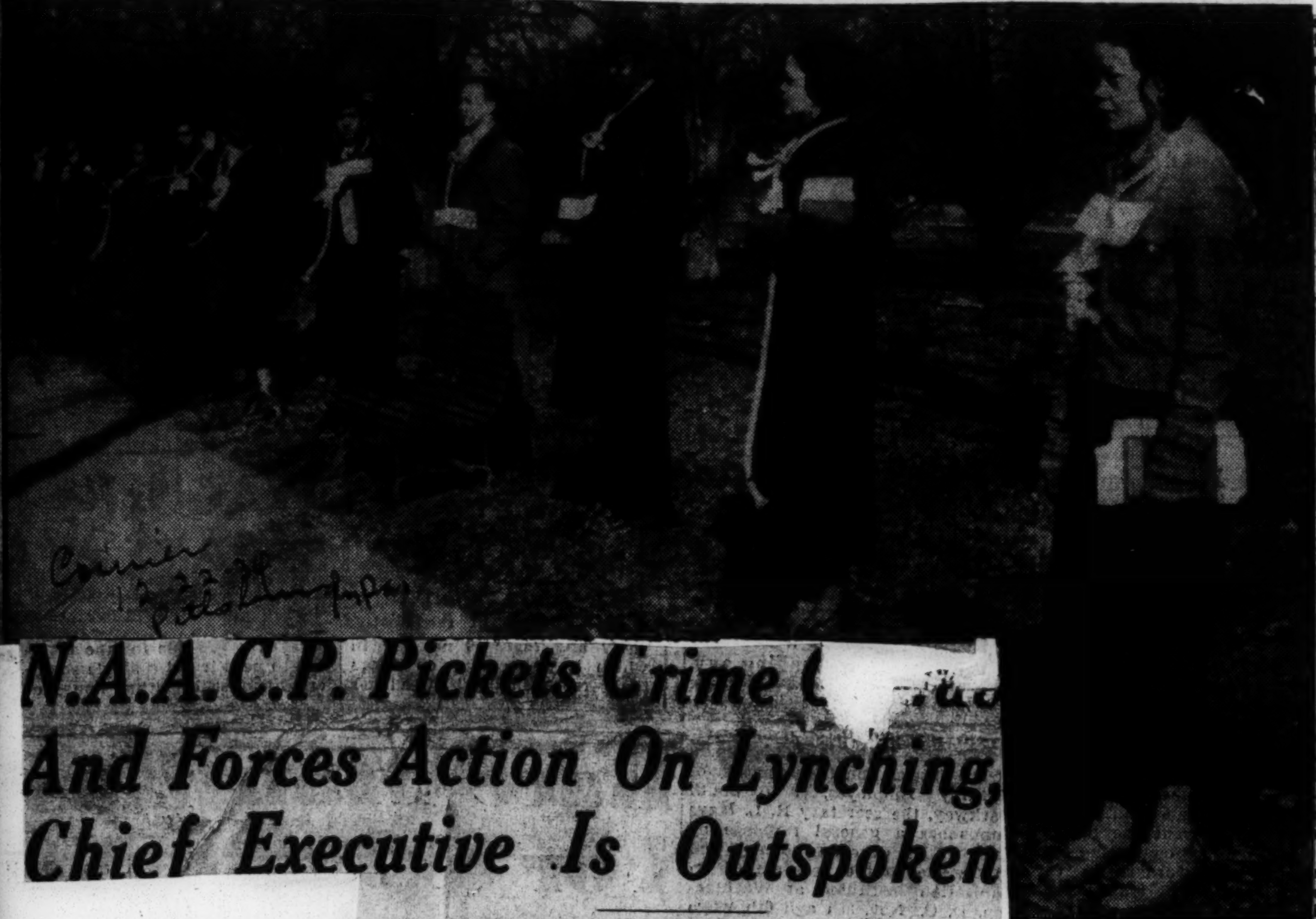
GOVERNORS ON LIST

The governors who signed the petition were:

C. D. Buck, of Delaware; T. M. Landon, of Kansas; W. A. Comstock, of Michigan; H. A. Moore, of New Jersey (governor-elect); H. H. Lehman, of New York; Gifford Pinchot, of Pennsylvania; F. D. Fitzgerald, of Michigan; H. G. Hoffman, of New Jersey; and Tom Moodie, of North Dakota.

Lynchings - 1934
Legislation Relating to.

4730



Courier
12-22-34
Pittsburgh, Pa.

With a piece of new hempen rope around their necks and with inscriptions reading "5,068 in 52 years" and "94 women in 48 years" this group of pickets from the N. A. A. C. P., voiced their protest against the crime of lynching, as the Conference of Crime met in Washington last week. Although four of their number were arrested, they forced recognition from the conference.

N.A.A.C.P. Pickets Crime C And Forces Action On Lynching; Chief Executive Is Outspoken

Roosevelt Describes Lynchings As "Horrifying"—Conference Acts After Picketing Lands Four In Jail—Roy Wilkins Among Those Arrested.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20—The eight-point program for permanent suppression of crime in the United States, approved by the Attorney General's Conference on Crime, comprehends lynching and mob violence.

Courier
12-22-34

The recommendation, which is interpreted as including within its scope lynching and mob violence, as well as industrial conflicts, is embodied in the report of the resolutions committee which the delegates approved by a viva voce vote last Thursday.

Pittsburgh
Pa.

Action Surprises

"That the conference condemns the use of methods of dealing with industrial conflicts and racial antagonisms which are not in accord with orderly and lawful procedures, and urges the administration of all phases of public safety by legally constituted law enforcement agencies only."

Acceptance of the resolution, although forecast to a degree in the address President Franklin D. Roosevelt made to the conference came as a considerable surprise to most of the delegates.

Pickets 55 Strong

Shortly before the noon recess last Thursday, considerable excitement had been created when a group of 55 representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People picketed Memorial Continental Hall in support of their request that lynching be listed as a topic for discussion on the agenda of the conference.

Around the neck of each of the pickets was a piece of new hempen rope. Each also wore a white ribbon, some with the inscription "5,068 in 52 years," others saying "94 women in 48 years."

The pickets were lined up just off the sidewalk across Seventeenth street, from the hall, and were careful to avoid any act which might cause police intervention. Park and city police were present, but simply looked on.

Houston Leads Group

Charles H. Houston, vice dean of the Howard Law School and a member of the Board of Education, and Mrs. Virginia McGuire, president of the local chapter of the N. A. A. C. P., led the demonstration.

Earlier in the week a group of pickets were dispersed and four of them arrested. They were taken to the Third Precinct and charged with carrying signs without a permit and parading without a permit. They were released after posting $5 each for appearance in Police Court.

Roy Wilkins Arrested

Those arrested were Roy W. Wilkins, assistant secretary of the N. A. A. C. P., New York City; Edward P. Lovett, a lawyer; Emmet Dorsey, a professor at Howard University, and George B. Murphy, Jr., manager of a bureau here, for a newspaper.

The picketing was in protest against omission from the conference program of studies on lynching and preventive measures.

The next day, Attorney General Cummings explained that no specific crime was listed for discussion before the conference. He said there would be discussions and he hoped that someone would bring up lynching.

Bullock Seeks Action

The question of lynching was interjected into the conference last Wednesday when Matthew W. Bullock, of the Massachusetts Parole and Pardon Board, offered a resolution calling for a Federal anti-lynching law.

His resolution recited that "the lynching of human beings is brutal collective murder and continues to be a blot upon American civilization."

It proposed that the conference "go on record as opposing the crime of lynching and recommending to Congress the adoption of the Wagner-Costigan bill, which is designed to make lynching a Federal offense, when the victim is taken from State officers."

President Speaks

In his address to the conference, President Roosevelt said:

"I ask you, therefore, to do all in your power to interpret the problem of crime to the people of this country. They must realize the many implications of that word 'crime.' It is not enough that they become interested in one phase only. At one moment, popular resentment and anger may be roused by an outbreak of some particular form of crime such, for example as widespread banditry; or at another moment, of appalling kidnapings; or at another of widespread drug peddling; or at another of horrifying lynchings. Lynching, unfortunately, is no longer confined to one section of the coutnry.

"It is your positive duty to keep before the country the facts in regard to crime as a whole ... great crimes, lesser crimes and little crimes ... to build up a body of public opinion which, I regret to be compelled to say, is not in this day and age, sufficiently active or alive to the situation in which we find ourselves."

In Police Court last Saturday morning, Judge Isaac R. Hitt dismissed charges of carrying signs without a permit filed against Mr Lovett, Mr. Dorsey and Mr. Murphy. Collateral posted by Wilkins was forfeited because he was unable to appear in court.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
REPUBLICAN

DEC 17 1934

Antilynching Laws

The preponderence of members from other than southern states in the Democratic majority in the new Congress has revived interest in the possible enactment of an antilynching statute. Of the Democratic membership there will be only 24 out of 69 senators and 108 out of 322 members of the House from southern states. The Richmond News Leader, noting these figures and the persistence of lynching, is inclined to believe that the suggested legislation, on the lines of the Costigan-Wagner bill, is not unlikely.

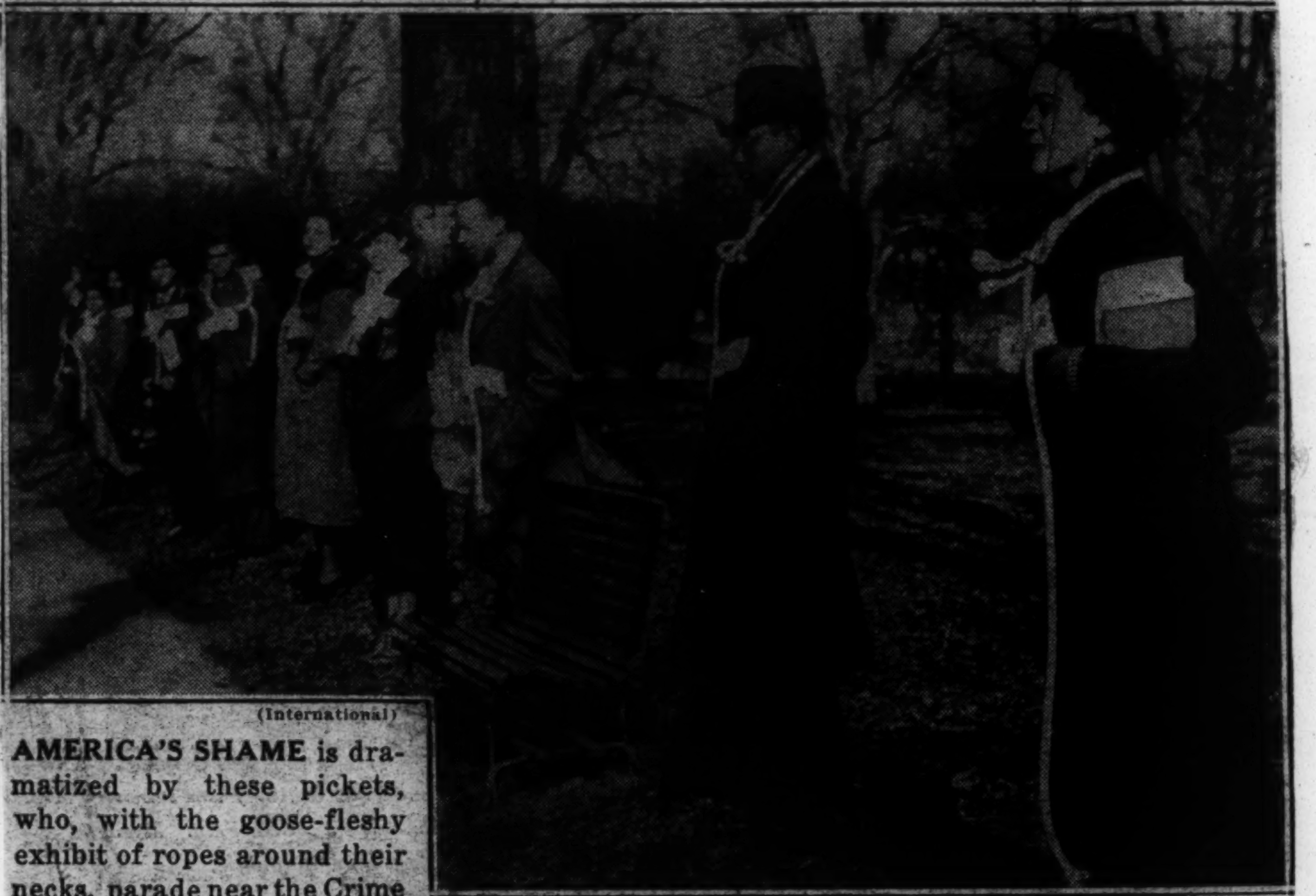
If such a law is enacted, the News Leader declares that the South will have only itself to blame. It holds that lynchings—except perhaps as infrequently as one in 20 years—can be prevented by stiff state legislation courageously enforced. On the other hand, it warns, "a perfunctory grand jury investigation, 'leading to the usual report that 'the responsible persons 'cannot be 'identified,' is a direct invitation to 'further crime." It might have added with equal truth that perfunctory petit jury trials of persons accused of such crimes as are most frequently alleged by the lynching mobs, the jury voting conviction in response to popular prejudice, are also a flaunting of the law, in spirit if not in letter. However, the attitude of the Virginia paper is further refreshing evidence of the growing sentiment in the South against the mob outrages that have disgraced it.

In proof of its contention the News Leader cites the operation of the antilynching laws of North Carolina and Virginia. In neither state, it notes, has an absolute stoppage of lynchings followed the passage of the laws; "but in both 'states public sentiment so thor'oughly approves the acts that mob 'violence is very rare." It believes that the enactment of similar laws in the other southern states would make unnecessary the intervention of the federal government. Undoubtedly it would be better for the individual states, and for the nation, if such intervention could be avoided. The time is opportune for the states to realize and to exercise their responsibility.

New York Mirror

DEC 15 1934

GRIM PROTEST AGAINST LYNCH LAW



(International)

AMERICA'S SHAME is dramatized by these pickets, who, with the goose-fleshy exhibit of ropes around their necks, parade near the Crime Conference at Memorial Continental Hall, Washington, D. C., to register a startling, but powerful protest against lynching in this land of law and order.

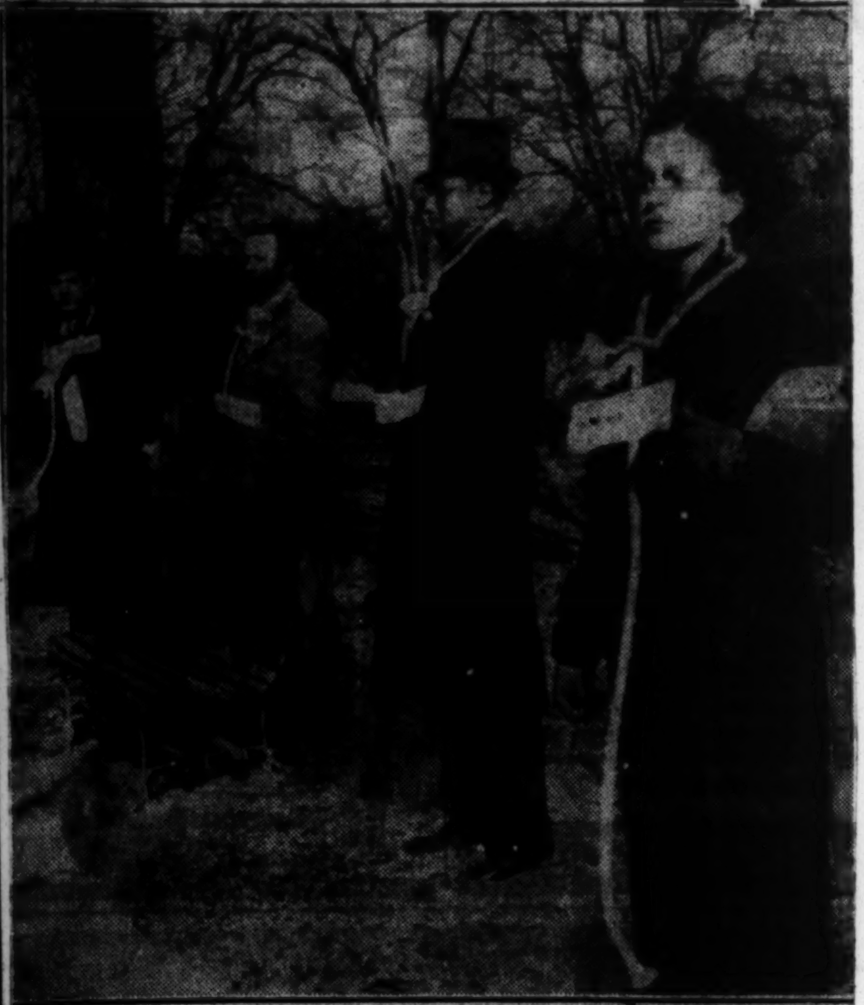
Lynchings—1934
Legislation Relating to.

4731

New York Herald-Tribune

DEC 14 1934

Protesting Crime Conference Evasion of Ly ching



Associated Press photo

Young Negro men and women shown lined up in front of the D. A. R. Memorial Hall in Washington, yesterday, in mute protest against the failure of the Attorney General's crime conference to include the subject of lynching in its program. Each participant stands silent, just off the sidewalk, with a piece of rope around his neck. The small white placard indicates the group represented. As a result of arrests for picketing on the first day of the conference, the Negroes refrained from marching or gathering in groups

Lynchings - 1934
Legislation Relating to.

4732

LA CROSSE, WIS.
TRIBUNE

DEC 9 1934

Mayor Verchota Joins Movement Against Lynching

Asks President To Urge Passage Of Legislation At Early Date

In a memorial sent to President Franklin D. Roosevelt Friday, Mayor J. J. Verchota joins an almost national movement in asking the national executive to urge immediate action upon congress and the passage of the Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynching bill.

"The killing and burning alive of human beings by mobs in the United States is a reproach upon our nation throughout the civilized world," declared the Mayor in his message.

"The recent shameless abduction of a prisoner, and transportation across the state line from Alabama to Florida to be lynched, with the crime advertised throughout the nation 12 hours in advance, is a notorious example of the complete breakdown of the machinery of justice which has grown out of the lynching evil. Since 1882, 5,068 human beings have been lynched in the United States, with less than a dozen convictions; in each of these cases only nominal prison terms were given the lynchers.

"During 1934 the total of lynchings has already reached the alarming number of 18. While the Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynching bill was pending in the congress there was a complete cessation of lynching for a period of six months but since June, when congress adjourned without voting on the Costigan-Wagner bill, sixteen mob murders have taken place.

"I, the undersigned, urge respectfully that you as president of the United States in your opening address to the congress place the Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynching bill on your 'must' program. Only unequivocal action by yourself as the leader of American opinion can overcome the objections even to vote on the measure by a small group in the senate, who prevented a vote during the last session of congress. In behalf of the good name of America I respectfully urge immediate action upon the convening of congress to the end that the federal government may give aid, as it has in the case of kidnaping, to the state in stamping out this notorious American crime."

Mayor Verchota pointed out that organizations throughout the nation with a membership totaling 41,203,928 have sent similar communications to the president.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.
DEMOCRAT & CHRONICLE

DEC 9 1934

ANTI-LYNCHING MOVE FAVORED BY U. R. WOMEN

Liberals Circulating Petition Backing Proposed Bill

Lynching, a relic of the barbaric ages, has no place in modern civilization, according to a petition being circulated at the University of Rochester.

Members of the Liberal Center, newly formed group of "free thinkers," are asking students and professors to sign a petition for the passage of the Costigan-Wagner Bill to make lynching a federal offense.

The students became specially aroused over the question after the visit to college of Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People," last month, when he addressed the group on the lynching and race riot problem.

Ruth Yalowich, president of the Liberal Center, declared yesterday, "We do not expect the bill to pass immediately or in its present form. Our hope is that the lynching problem will be brought to the attention of the people to make them aware of the need for the passage of such a bill."

General sentiment of students and faculty is in favor of the bill. Copies of hte petition are to be sent New York Congressmen and President Roosevelt. The Rochester group is seeking co-operation of liberal organizations in other universities in urging passage of the bill.

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55 Rope Picketers Picket Capital Crime Session

Afro-American

District of Columbia Law Forbids Banners and Signs, But Not Ropes.

12-22-34

POLICE OUT TO HALT PARADING

Baltimore, Md.

Pickets Again Fool Officers by Standing Still.

AFRO Bureau

WASHINGTON — While Attorney-General Cummings's crime conference discussed the crime wave in America, with its prohibitive and curative treatments, fifty-[illegible] and grim reminders of the country's most imminent disgrace, lynching, stood silently and unmolested across the street from Continental Hall, where the last sessions were being held, Thursday.

The group members, who were professors and students from Howard Univ., prominent ministers, civic leaders and housewives, led by the local branch of the N.A.A.C.P., stood several feet apart, each with a rope tied around his neck, and a small sign across his chest, bearing the number of persons lynched throughout the country over specific periods of time.

The group, which had been previously organized into squads of five each, with a captain and with detailed written instructions, included one [illegible]. Cabs were provided for their transportation to and from the scene of the demonstration.

ROPES ARE NOT PLACARDS

Mrs. Virginia McGuire, president of the N.A.A.C.P., and Dr. Charles Houston, dean of Howard U. law school, who on Friday devised the plan of picketing the Crime Conference in Washington with ropes around their necks. They thus evaded the law which prevents picketing with banners or placards.

The Rope Pickets

Dr. Charles Houston's successful direction of the NAACP picketing of the Crime Conference in Washington last week is a good omen for his success as a member of the NAACP staff after January first.

Arrested the first day for violating the laws of the District of Columbia which prohibit parading without a permit or the carrying of advertisements, signs or banners, the pickets and Dr. Houston went into a huddle with George E. C. Hayes and other eminent Washington attorneys.

Friday the pickets were back in front of the Crime Conference and no police under the law could arrest them. Each of sixty pickets STOOD in front of Continental Hall. He carried no banner, advertisement, or sign. Around his or her neck was a bit of rope tied in a lyncher's knot.

The second day's picketing was more effective than the first. It attracted more attention because it was smart and original.

The NAACP, with Dr. Houston as legal adviser, may find other problems which may be solved in a similar manner by tact and diplomacy.

Lynchings—1934
Legislation Relating to.

4733

Valdosta, Ga., Times
November 10, 1934

FEDERAL ANTI-LYNCHING LAW

The recent Florida lynching has brought forth another cry for a federal anti-lynching law.

For some time this matter has been dormant. Mob rule had been decreased and it had been thought that maybe lynchisgs would cease. But within recent years mob rule has stuck its ugly head out too many times.

An anti-lynching bill was brought before congress a few years ago. It was passed by the house, but Southern senators were able to defeat it in the senate.

Two methods have been proposed to bring an end to summary executions of a suspect by a mob. One, provided for in the Wagner-Costigan bill, has been made law in several states. It imposes a heavy fine on the county in which a lynching occurs. This fine is collected by the federal government. In the states in which this law is in effect it has been found that lynchings have ceased in the counties that have been made to pay the fine.

The other method is to hold any county officers who conspire with the mob criminally liable.

During the past five years statistics reveal that Georgia has been at the top of the list in lynchings. But in the last two years there has been a decrease of mob law in this state.

It would seem that a federal anti-lynching law would be contrary to the constitution and against states' rights.

If such a law were passed by congress it would be very hard to enforce it in the South. The only way to break up mob rule is for the people to do it themselves through their courts.

In order to prohibit the passage of a federal anti-lynching law it is gonng to be necessary for the people of the South to realize that mob rule must come to an end. If this is not done they must expect the federal government to take a hand in the matter.

It is up to the people themselves to stave off any action on the part of congress.

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
November 12, 1934

'ANTI-LYNCHING'

LAW IS LIKELY

Solon Believes That Congress Will Act at Next Session

WASHINGTON, Nov. 12.—(AP)—Belief that a new congressional alignment will facilitate enactment of anti-lynching legislation was expressed today by Representative Celler, of New York, ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee.

Cellar pointed out that northern and western Democrats outnumbered southern party members in both houses and predicted passage of a measure similar to the Wagner-Costigan bill which would hold law-enforcing officials responsible for lynchings as well as those who participated in them.

Rocky Mount, N. C., Telegram
December 1, 1934

LEGISLATURE TO PASS ON LYNCHING PETITION

Interracial Commission Offers Threefold Program

Raleigh, Dec. 1.—The North Carolina legislature, meeting in biennial session next month, will be asked to enact legislation designed to prevent lynchings.

The North Carolina commission on inter-racial co-operation, meeting here yesterday, instructed its legislative committee to draft a proper anti-lynching bill to be submitted to the general assembly.

The committee is composed of Dr. Edwin McNeil Poteat of Raleigh; Dean M. T. Hecke of the University of North Carolina, and Dr. Howard E. Jensen of Duke university.

The commission gave its approval to three legislative recommendations which earlier had been presented to the state legislative council by the state conference for social work.

They were:

1.—That the state assume full responsibility for the enlargement and support of the industrial school for Negro girls at Efland, now supported partly by the state and partly by private donations.

2.—That adequate care be provided for mental defectives of both races.

3.—That the state departments of education, health and public welfare be supported in their programs

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New York Evening Post
AUG 15 1934

APPEAL TO PRESIDENT

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, with headquarters at 69 Fifth Avenue, has sent a telegram to President Roosevelt urging again that he sponsor passage of a Federal anti-lynching law at the next session of Congress. It is pointed uot that already there has been fourteen lynchings this year, two more than there were in 1933 for this period.

GREENSBORO, N. C.
RECORD
DEC 1

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL IS ASKED

Inter-Racial Committee Drafts Program to Present to Legislature

RALEIGH, Dec. 1. — (AP) — The North Carolina legislature, meeting in biennial session next month, will be asked to enact legislation designed to prevent lynchings.

The North Carolina commission on inter-racial co-operation, meeting here yesterday, instructed its legislative committee to draft a proper anti-lynching bill to be submitted to the general assembly.

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Three Point Program Adopted.

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1—That the state assume full responsibility for the enlargement and support of the industrial school for negro girls at Efland, now supported partly by the state and partly by private donations.

2—That adequate care be provided for mental defectives of both races.

3—That the state departments of education, health and public welfare be supported in their programs

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NEGRO PICKETS SEIZED AT CRIME CONFERENCE

Constitution 12-12-34
Atlanta, Ga.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—(AP)—A dozen negroes were taken to police headquarters today when they attempted to picket Attorney-General Cummings' crime conference because a discussion of lynching was not included on its program.

Signs criticizing the omission of lynching from the list of conference topics were carried by the negroes, who represented the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It was reported the group had no permit to picket.

NAACP Protests U. S. Conference Which Does Not Discuss Lynching

Pickets March in Capital Until Police Arrest Four Men.

Afro-American

ROY WILKINS, NAACP SECRETARY ON LIST

12-15-34

Others Are H.U. Professor, AFRO Editor and Lawyer.

Baltimore, Md.

BULLETIN

Replying to a telegram of Dr. Charles Houston, Homer Cummings, U. S. Attorney-General, who had declined to give lynching a place on the crime conference's discussion, said:

"The discussion hour at each session is open to the delegates for consideration of any subject or any particular crime.

"There is absolutely no limitation as to topics. At such sessions, particular crimes, including kidnaping and lynchings, will no doubt come in for special consideration."

(Exclusively to the AFRO)

WASHINGTON. — Four lynch-protest marchers, one of them a national officer of the NAACP, were arrested here Tuesday afternoon for picketing in front of Memorial Continental Hall, where U.S. Attorney-General Homer S. Cummings's National Crime Conference was in progress.

The picketers were arrested after they insisted on marching despite the fact that police had twice refused them permission to picket the conference.

Those arrested included: Roy W. Wilkins, assistant secretary of the NAACP; Edward Lovett, attorney on the local branch's legal staff; Emmett Dorsey, professor of political science at Howard University; and George B. Murphy, Jr., editor of the Washington AFRO-AMERICAN.

Violating Sign Law

Charged on the police "blotter" with "violating the sign law," but actually with picketing without a permit — police officials seemed befogged—the quartet put up $5 collateral apiece, furnished by George E. C. Hayes, chief of the local branch of the NAACP's legal staff.

The pickets were ordered arrested by Captain Edward J. Kelly, white, of the third precinct, when the marchers refused his ultimatum to leave the premises of Continental Hall or be arrested.

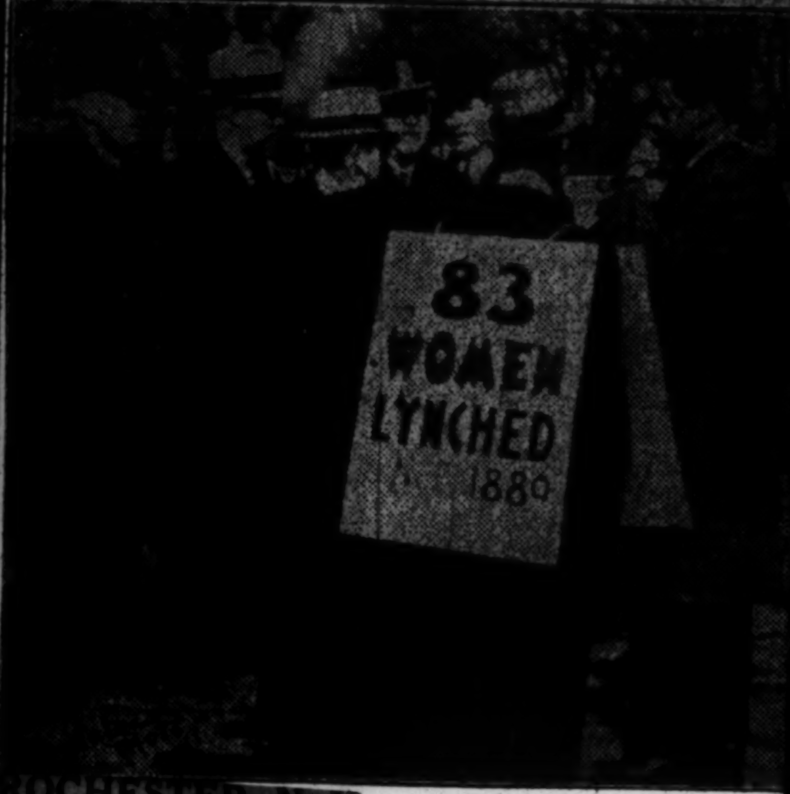
Accompanied by George E. C. Hayes, Mrs. Virginia McGuire, president of the local branch of the NAACP, and A. S. Pinkett, branch secretary, the picketers arrived at the conference at 12:30, Tuesday, just as the conference was about to adjourn for lunch. Delegates were beginning to leave. Starting their march at the end of the block, the picketers began their slow march in front of the building. They carried lynch-protest banners.

Marched Five Minutes

They had not marched more than five minutes when Captain told him that they felt his continued absence from the school might hurt them and their work, "covered" the picketing with a small movie camera.

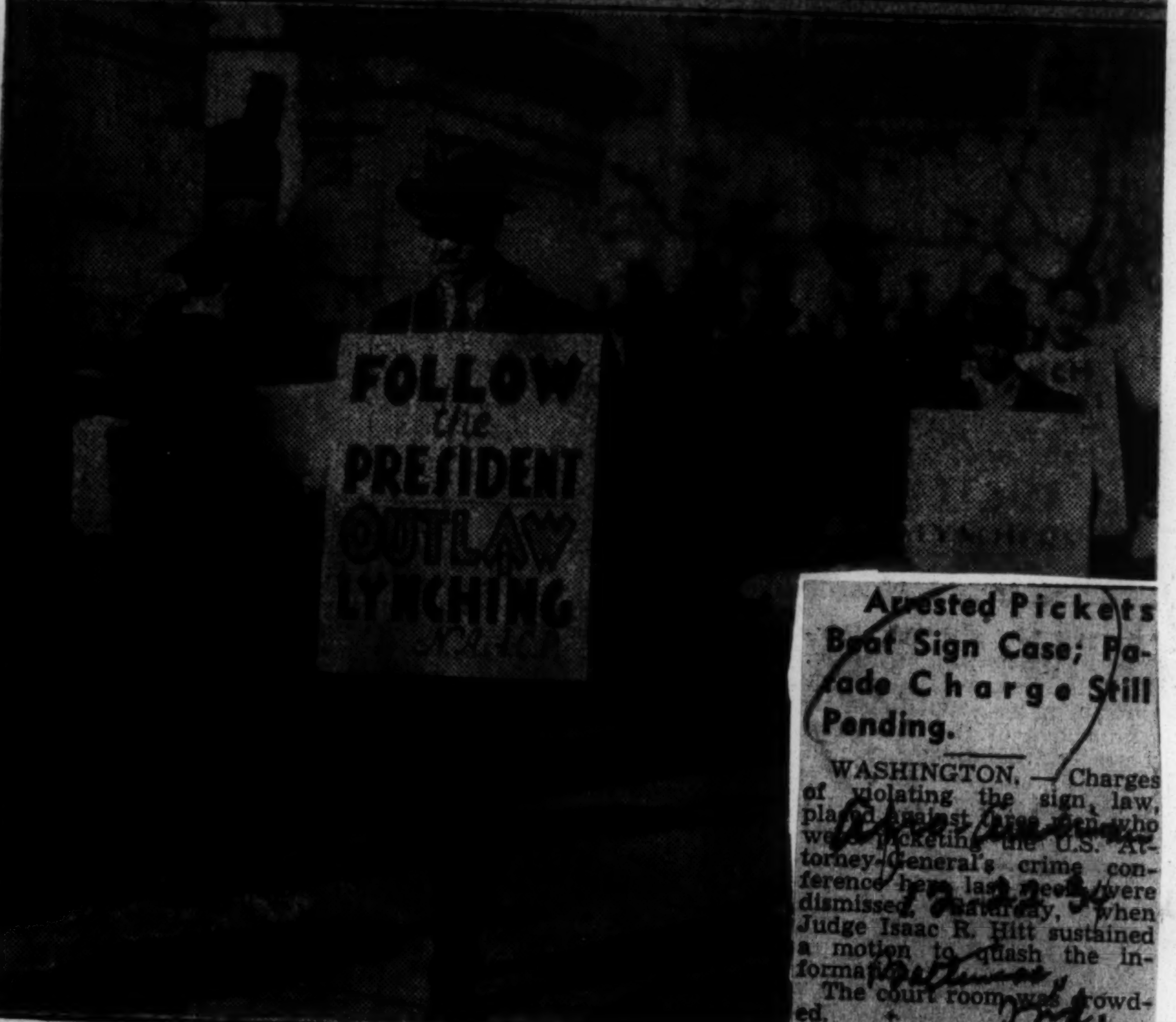
AND HOW!

Edward Lovett, George B. Murphy, Jr., (with placard facing camera), and Professor Emmett Dorsey of Howard University, pickets who marched in front of Memorial Continental Hall, protesting against the exclusion of lynching from the National Crime Conference program, are shown talking with Captain of Police Edward J. Kelly, who insisted that "You can't picket without a permit."



LYNCHING IS CRIME TOO

N.A.A.C.P. members picketing National Crime Conference in session in Washington, D. C. They were arrested Tuesday when they insisted on marching, despite the fact that police had twice refused them permits. Left to right: Roy W. Wilkins, assistant secretary of the N.A.A.C.P.; Geo. B. Murphy, Jr., AFRO D. C. editor; and Emmett Dorsey, professor of Political Science at Howard University.



ROCHESTER, N. Y.
TIMES UNION

DEC 10 1934

Lynch Law Backed

The Liberal Center, a new organization at the College for Women, University of Rochester, is circulating a petition urging passage of the Costigan-Wagner bill making lynching a federal offense. The group, headed by Ruth Yalowich, does not expect the bill to pass immediately, but hopes the petition will strengthen sentiment in favor of the proposal.

RICHMOND, VA.
NEWS LEADER

DEC 3 1934

AN ANTI-LYNCHING ACT?

Those who predict the enactment of an anti-lynching act by the next congress are probably right. Southern Democrats will constitute a smaller percentage of the total Democratic membership than in perhaps any congress since the war between the states. There will be twenty-four Southern Democrats in the senate and forty-five Democrats from other parts of the country. Along with 108 Southern Democratic members of the house will sit 214 from the North, the East and the West. It is altogether probable that the united strength of Republicans and of non-Southern Democrats will suffice to pass a measure similar to the Costigan-Wagner bill.

If this happens, the South will have itself and only itself to blame. Lynching can be controlled where there is the will to act. Once in twenty years, perhaps, a mob may get out of hand even in a well-ordered community; but if there is stiff state legislation, courageously enforced, the fear of the law will prevent the creation of "the mob-mind." On the other hand, a perfunctory grand jury investigation, leading to the usual report that the responsible persons "cannot be identified," is a direct invitation to further crime.

Proof of all this is to be found in the operation of the North Carolina anti-lynching law and of the more recent Virginia statute. In neither case has there been an absolute stoppage of lynchings since the passage of the law; but in both states, public sentiment so thoroughly approves the acts that mob violence is very rare. Were there like laws in all the Southern states, there would be no occasion to use the federal arm of government to assure a fair trial for any man.

Arrested Pickets Beat Sign Case; Parade Charge Still Pending.

Afro American
12-22-34
Baltimore, Md.

WASHINGTON, — Charges of violating the sign law, placed against three men who were picketing the U.S. Attorney-General's crime conference here last week, were dismissed, Saturday, when Judge Isaac R. Hitt sustained a motion to quash the information.

The court room was crowded.

The motion was made by George E. C. Hayes, chief of the legal staff of the D.C. Branch of the N.A.A.C.P.

The court ruled that placards urging legislation against lynching were not advertising.

Edward P. Lovett, local attorney; George B. Murphy, Jr., manager of the D.C. office of the AFRO-AMERICAN, and Prof. Emmett Dorsey, of Howard University, will face charges Friday of parading without a permit.

Roy Wilkins, editor of the Crisis, and assistant secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., who came to Washington to participate in the picketing, forfeited his $5 bond.

Lynchings—1934
Legislation Relating to—

4734

New York Times
NOV 4 1934

ANTI-LYNCHING LAW IS DEMANDED ANEW

Recent Cases of Violence by Mobs Spur The Movement for a Federal Statute

By RUSSELL OWEN.

THE recent Florida lynching has brought a renewed demand for national legislation to check an evil against which the States frequently seem incapable of acting. The entire problem is so bound up with local psychology and politics that action against lynchers is seldom taken, and for this reason there has been growing for years a feeling that only Federal authority can meet the situation.

Congress has been reluctant to act through fear of violating States' rights, and also because the problem raises other constitutional questions. But the great opposition to a national anti-lynching law has come from the Southern States, where the greatest number of lynchings occur. After the Dyer Act was passed by the House it was defeated in the Senate by filibustering tactics of Southern Senators.

Now, however, the situation has become such that the Wagner-Costigan Bill, which is an improvement on the Dyer Bill, will be brought up again for discussion, and there seems a fair chance that Southern opposition will be beaten. The reason is that not only have lynchings been increasing in the last few years, but there have been some spectacular lynchings of white men.

Two Methods Proposed.

There are two methods proposed to prevent the summary execution of a suspect by a mob. One, embodied in the Wagner-Costigan Bill, has been made law by a few States. Under it every county in which a lynching takes place shall be liable in a sum ranging from $2,000 to $10,000 for the life of the victim. That such a monetary punishment should be effective in instances where a great moral revulsion is given as the cause for lynching is a cynical commentary on life, but it is so. Since the South Carolina law was enacted in 1896 the minimum penalty of $2,000 against the county has been assessed and collected several times, and it is said that no lynching has subsequently occurred in any county fined.

The other method is also provided in the Wagner-Costigan Bill. Under this provision, any county officer who conspires with the mob to turn over the victim for lynching—and such occurrences are not infrequent—shall be criminally liable.

The question of lynching when it is subjected even to the most superficial study becomes one of surpassing interest because of the false values involved. It has always been contended, for instance, that lynching was a method of protecting the honor of white womanhood against Negroes. But in the studies which have been made it has been established that the lynchings on a charge of rape are only from 5 to 6 per cent of the whole; and, of course, guilt is not proved.

The number of lynchings in the United States can never be definately known, because records have been kept only since 1889. The record has been fairly complete since 1889, however, and it shows that between that time and the present there have been 3,731 lynchings.

Lynchings in Five Years.

There have been years when lynching seemed to be on the decline; in 1932, for instance, the number of cases sank to an all-time low of ten; only to increase in 1933 to twenty-eight. The following table gives the number of lynchings (ninety-four) for the five-year period 1930-34:

Alabama	12
Arkansas	1
California	2
Florida	8
Georgia	14
Indiana	2
Kansas	1
Kentucky	2
Louisiana	8
Maryland	2
Mississippi	14
Missouri	2
North Carolina	2
North Dakota	1
Ohio	1
Oklahoma	1
South Carolina	6
Tennessee	5
Texas	8
West Virginia	2

As to the guilt or innocence of mob-law victims accused of various crimes. It was testified before a Senate committee this year in a hearing on the Wagner-Costigan Bill, as the result of a survey made by the Southern Commission for the Study of Lynching, of which Dr. George F. Milton, editor of The Chattanooga News, was chairman, that "two of the 1930 mob victims [there were twenty-five lynchings in that year] were innocent of crime (they were not even accused), and there is grave doubt of the guilt of eleven others. In six of these eleven cases there is considerable doubt as to just what crimes, if any, were committed, and in the other five, in which there is no question as to the crimes committed, there is considerable doubt as to whether the mobs got the guilty men."

Many arguments have been raised against the Federal anti-lynching bill. One is that it is unconstitutional, but the method of imposing fines upon counties for the failure of law officers to uphold the law because of negligence or conspiracy has been sustained in the State courts in more than one instance. To many observers it seems probable that the proposed Federal act is constitutional, although there are some who would like to see its provisions rewritten.

Another protest is based on the assertion that although lynching is wrong it takes the place of dilatory justice. In answer to this it was testified before the Senate committee that the persons lynched are usually friendless, poor and without any legal or political influence. It was stated that it could not be maintained that justice was not swift in the South in punishing a Negro; certainly it was quicker than it would be in punishing a white man for a similar crime.

A Maryland Spectacle.

"So deeply into Ameriban life and morals has lynching sunk its roots," says Walter White, head of he National Association for the dvancement of Colored People, "that we have witnessed in the United States within recent months the humiliating spectacle of the Governor and Attorney General of Maryland wholly impotent in the face of a mob on the Eastern Shore which lynched George Armwood. We have seen State troops run out by the mob and the Attorney General himself threatened with lynching because he sought arrests.

"Lynching is no longer either a sectional or a racial issue. The United States today stands at the crossroads. If Negroes can be lynched with impunity and without fear of punishment today, white people can be lynched tomorrow; in fact, that is already occurring. Should there be continuance of physical suffering through unemployment and maladjustment of the economic, social and political order, it is not at all impossible or improbable that lynching mobs will extend their activities to Communists, Socialists, the foreign born and members of whatever groups happen to incur popular disfavor, whether justly or not, in any part of the country."

The Wagner-Costigan Bill is not so much directed at social and political inequalities as it is intended to act as a check on mob crimes. Even so, it would affect somewhat less than half of the lynchings, because it would apply only to counties in which persons were taken from the custody of law officers. In more than 50 per cent of the lynchings the victims are not in custody at the time they are seized.

The Lindbergh Law.

There is a doubtful opportunity for the government to proceed under the Lindbergh Kidnapping Act. As originally passed, this law provided for Federal intervention in interstate kidnappings where the victim was abducted "for ransom or reward." This was later amended to read "for ransom or award or otherwise," and the provision was inserted that the failure to release a person after seven days should create a presumption that such a person had been transported from one State to another.

The Department of Justice has been acting upon presumption in so many of its cases in order to stifle kidnapping that efforts to have it interfere in cases of lynching have been received dubiously, lest its present functions be curtailed. And mobs do not as a rule conceal their victim for seven days; they hang or burn or shoot him quickly.

So, in the absence of other Federal laws bearing on lynching, it seems possible that the Wagner-Costigan Bill may go through the Senate this time.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
November 7, 1934

Uncle Sam to Stop Lynching

It was freely predicted when the latest lynching took place in Florida that it would almost inevitably bring nearer the enactment of a federal anti-lynching law, and now it appears that such a bill will be introduced almost as soon as Congress assembles.

The President has been asked also to investigate the possibility of having the persons who abducted and killed the latest victim prosecuted for kidnaping under the Lindbergh law.

This law, passed in March 1932, makes the abduction of a person across state lines a capital offense if it involves extortion and personal injury. In the law as amended the interstate abduction is defined as an act undertaken for ransom or reward "or otherwise".

It is maintained by many investigators of the subject that the federal law proposed a year ago by Senators Robert F. Wagner, of New York, and Edward P. Costigan, of Colorado, would prove effective in suppressing the acts of a mob.

Under the Wagner-Costigan bill a mob or riotous assemblage is defined as a group of three or more persons acting in concert and without authority of law to kill or injure any person in the custody of any peace officer with the purpose or consequence of depriving such person of due process of law or the equal protection of the laws.

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Any peace officer having an accused person in charge, who fails or neglects to protect him from the mob or refuses to make all diligent efforts to do so, is held guilty of felony. He is likewise culpable if he fails, or omits to try diligently to arrest all persons who have taken a part in a lynching. Upon conviction he may be punished by a fine not to exceed $5,000 or by not more than five years imprisonment or by both penalties.

If it is true that an official is in collusion or conspiracy with a member or members of the mob to surrender his prisoner to vengeance, he and those plotting with him may be punished by a prison sentence of not less than five years nor more than twenty-five years.

Trials for violation of the proposed law would take place in the Federal District Court. The National Government would be empowered tc act if the state did not do so within thirty days after the commission of the crime.

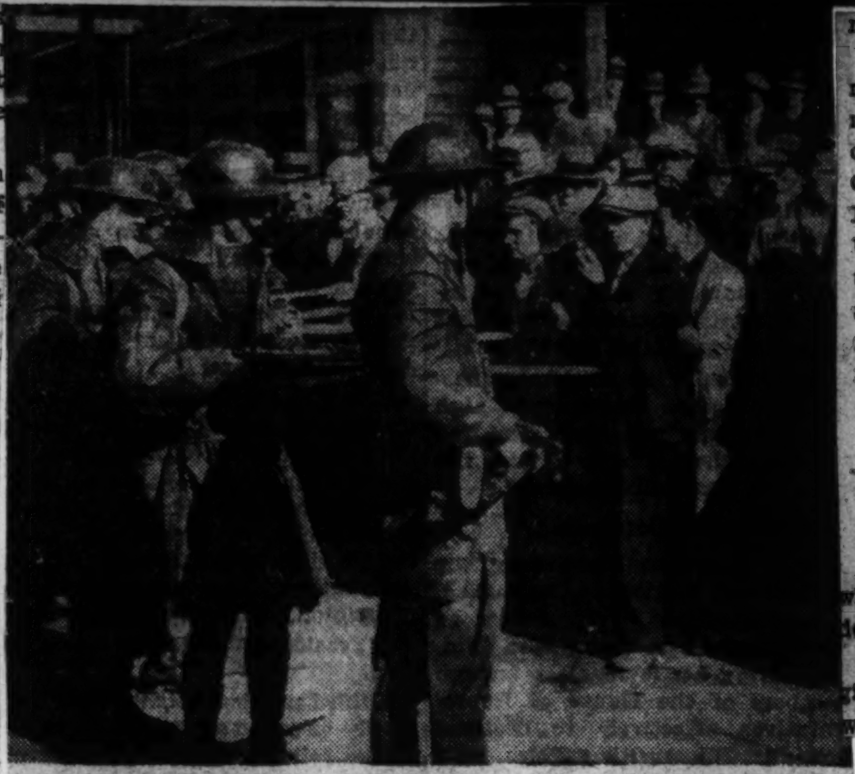
In the opinion of many, the vital provision of the bill is that it punishes the community itself. Any county in which a lynching occurs is held liable to the injured person, or to his heirs or legal representatives in the event of his death.

The sum recovered may be not less than $2,000 nor more than $10,000 as liquidated damages. It may be recovered in a civil action against the county, brought in the United States District Court having the proper geographical jurisdiction. If the amount of a judgment is not paid, the United States Marshal can levy on the property of the county and the sum recovered is exempt from all claims made by creditors of the deceased or injured person. If the mob victim is transported from one county to another, all the counties become jointly liable.

In spite of the drastic laws in many states in which a lyncher is subject to death or life imprisonment, no such sentence has ever been pronounced.

In 1920 there had been outbreaks of lynching, sixty-five in all, or twice as many as in the preceding year. A determined agitation was started for a Federal statute on the lines of the bill introduced by Representative L. C. Dyer, of Missouri. Then came a slight decline in the number of lynchings and the Dyer bill, passed by the House, was defeated in the Senate. In 1924 and 1925 the number of lynchings was, respectively, 16 and 18, but in 1926 it jumped to 34 and Victor Berger, of Wisconsin, in that year introduced another Federal anti-lynching bill. It was defeated, but its mere introduction seemed to serve to decrease the number of lynchings again until 1930, when the number rose to 25, and in 1933, when the number went up to 28, the Costigan-Wagner bill was introduced.

Apparently the mere threat of the Federal anti-lynching bill has a wholesome effect and the time has come when even the South would vote for such a bill.



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The State Militia Prevents a Mob From Freeing Arrested Lynchers.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
November 12, 1934

Press Comment Of The Day

(The Montgomery Advertiser)

THE FEDERAL LYNCHING BILL

Of course, the agitators for a Federal anti-lynching bill would not let the recent Florida killing slip by without using the incident as a means for pushing the bill in Congress.

It is expected that the Wagner-Costigan bill which would give the Federal Government the right to prosecute lynchings in all States, will be introduced into Congress during the next session.

Several Southern newspapers have been commenting on the bill, and a few favor its passage. The Advertiser does not favor the passage of a bill which would give the Federal Government the right to intervene in the State courts. But another Southern newspaper, The Macon Telegram, believes that such a law is inevitable.

Says The Telegram:

The President as been asked also to investigate the possibility of having the persons who abducted and killed the latest victim prosecuted for kidnaping under the Lindbergh law.

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It appears to this paper that the States can not give up a precious right merely to adjust a problem which should be handled by the local governments.

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont
December 3, 1934

North Carolina Anti-Lynch Law Will Be Sought

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 1—(AP)—The North Carolina legislature meeting in biennial session next month, will be asked to enact legislation designed to prevent lynchings.

The North Carolina commission on inter-racial co-operation, meeting here yesterday, instructed its legislative committee to draft a proper anti-lynching bill to be submitted to the general assembly.

The committee is composed of Dr Edwin McNeil Poteat of Raleigh; Dean M. T. Hecke of the University of North Carolina, and Dr. Howard E. Jensen of Duke University.

The commission gave its approval to three legislative recommendations which earlier had been presented to the state legislative council by the state conference for social work.

Lynchings-1934
Legislation Relating to.

4735

Knoxville, Tenn., News-Sentinel
October 29, 1934

A Federal Crime

UNLESS the federal government acts, the Alabama-Florida lynching probably will go unpunished like virtually all other lynchings. Because of the mob's removal of the victim from one state to another this was an interstate crime.

It is significant that those leading in the appeal for government action are southerners.

The messages to President Roosevelt from the commission on inter-racial co-operation and to Attorney-General Cummings from the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching are further proof that the real spirit of the South abhors these frequent outbreaks of barbarism.

Lynchings are almost impossible without the connivance, open or tacit, of the local officers of the law with mobs. The long sad shameful record of racial mob savagery proves beyond argument that this terrible type of crime will never be controlled until the federal government intervenes to preserve American legal processes and to protect the lives of its citizens.

Enactment of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, necessary to give the federal government power in all such cases, is one of the major charges upon the next Congress. But that law cannot be passed without the active support of President Roosevelt, in whose administration there have already been 45 lynchings.

EL PASO TEX.
HERALD
OCT 30 1934

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Macon, Ga., Telegraph
October 28, 1934

Federal Anti-Lynch Law Ahead

The lynching of the Negro, Claude Neal, in North Florida on Friday night was, in many respects, the most atrocious crime in the long and bloody history of mob violence.

The crime for which the Negro was lynched was, of course, unspeakably horrible, but in the first place it has often been pointed out that lynching for criminal assault made it easier to keep alive the whole spirit of mob violence and disregard of law so that men take matters into their own hands for many crimes of a minor nature. It is the brutalizing effect upon the popular mind which is deplored as much as the crime itself, and nothing more brutal could be imagined than some of the details with which this Florida lynching was accompanied. The mob first visited the jail at Brewton, Alabama, and practically without resistance took the Negro back to the scene of his crime near Marianna, Florida.

The word soon passed from mouth to mouth that the Negro was to be killed and immediately the countryside was alive with people in automobiles and every other conceivable vehicle, on their way to the scene of the execution, filled with vengeance and morbid curiosity.

The cold-blooded deliberation with which the affair was managed was one of its most reprehensible aspects. When the crowd became so great the blood-thirsty stage-managers became afraid that someone besides the intended victim might be hurt, so the announcement was made that the sanguinary performance would not go on until the mob had dwindled. Invitations were extended to a select few to be present.

In the meantime appeals were made to the governor of Florida to call out the National Guard to protect the Negro. The sheriff of the county and other officials persisted in declaring that they were entirely able to cope with the situation. It is doubtful if this was true and it is equally doubtful whether the sheriff had the slightest desire to protect this Negro.

While those who were invited to ring-side seats were waiting for the general mob to disperse, speeches couched in a "humorous" vein were made by way of entertainment. A heartless flippancy prevailed throughout the evening.

The body of the Negro has since been found, with every evidence that he had been subjected to all kinds of torture and mutilation. Nobody doubted, from the time constituted authorities threw up their hands, that such would be the culmination.

It is no longer pretended that the lynching of Negroes is peculiar to the South. The North and Middle West have a record on this score which gives that theory the lie, but it is high time that we should see the end of this form of barbarism.

The upshot of it all is going to be that a few more crimes like this in Florida will give the stimulus necessary for putting over in Congress a federal anti-lynching law of the most drastic character. If we can not keep our own doorstep clean the Federal Government will try its hand, and will probably succeed.

New York World Telegram
OCT 29 1934

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Brooklyn, N. Y. Eagle
OCT 30 1934

Lynch Law Must Be Ended.

If the anti-lynching bill sponsored by Senator Robert F. Wagner had not died in the closing days of the last Congress after being favorably reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee, it is entirely possible that the shocking episode resulting the death of Claude Neal, Negro, near Greenwood, Florida, late Friday night, might have been prevented.

Under this bill the county in which a lynching occurred could be fined, the money to go to the heirs of the victim, local officials could be prosecuted by the Federal Government if lax in failing to prevent a lynching, and the persons accused of the crime could be tried in the Federal Courts. The latter two provisions should cool the ardor of mob leaders and lead local authorities to make serious efforts to protect the prisoner.

If Governor Dave Sholtz had rushed troops to the scene as soon as word of the mob's movements became known, the life of the Negro doubtless could have been saved. The crowd began gathering at noon when word was received that Neal had been dragged out of the jail in Brewton, Alabama, and telegrams were sent to the Governor urging that he act. According to reports, the Governor offered to call out National Guard units at once, but W. F. Chambliss, the sheriff of Jackson County, insisted he was capable of handling the situation. This would seem to throw a large share of the responsibility directly on the shoulders of the sheriff. Certainly the advance notice several hours should have made it possible for any vigorous well-intentioned official to have thwarted the plans of the mob.

Another unusual feature of the Neal case is that the victim was taken out of an Alabama jail and brought back across the Florida State line for the actual lynching, thus making it an interstate crime. This circumstance would seem to give the Federal authorities the right to enter the case, as is now being urged.

It is reassuring to note that the wave of protests against this crime comes from organizations in the South as well as the North. Apparently there is a growing sense of shame that such barbaric incidents can occur with impunity in the United States and bring down upon us the scorn of the rest of the world. It should impress the next Congress with the importance of pushing through the anti-lynching legislation designed to end the evil. Until this purpose is realized, we can scarcely claim to be a civilized nation.

Mobile, Ala., Press
November 7, 1934

Anti-Lynching Bill

The recent lynching involving counties and officials of both Florida and Alabama has, as was to be expected, revived the talk of a federal anti-lynching law. At the last session of Congress the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill was introduced, but ended in a committee. It will be not at all surprising if the two Senators who are its authors make a determined effort for its passage.

Southern newspaper comment on the bill has not been particularly favorable. It has been pointed out that with but one exception the proposed bill is chiefly a repetition of state laws and that the question of enforcement would remain unanswered by a federal statute. That is to say, punishment of officials and individuals involved in a lynching would still be left to juries in the federal court district where the lynching took place.

It is this exception which we have mentioned, however, that is the bill's vital provision. The Wagner-Costigan bill holds that "any county in which a lynching occurs is held liable to the injured person, or to his heirs or legal representatives in the event of his or her death. The sum recovered may be not less than $2,000 nor more than $10,000 as liquidated damages. It may be recovered in a civil action against the county brought in the United States District Court having the proper geographical jurisdiction."

As somebody has put it, the community in which the lynching takes place will be punished for the crime. This seems to many observers to be decidedly unfair, but the realists, we suppose, can once again point out that geography enters largely into the question of the provision's enforcement.

The south as a whole may or may not resent the passage of a federal anti-lynching bill. Be that as it may, outbreaks of violence such as that which occurred so short a time ago are bound to lend impetus to a movement which already has considerable strength.

If the bill is not to be passed, it will be because state officials, by their actions, make it patently unnecessary. Otherwise, the threat of a federal anti-lynching bill, and it is not a new threat, will remain.

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Advertiser

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11-9-34

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Tallahassee, Fla. Democrat
November 26, 1934

Wrong Perspective
On Lynch Law Opposition

Although we have always opposed lynch law, we are tired of the misdirected appeals to sympathy for guilty victims which are particularly numerous if the lynching takes place in the south and if the victim is a negro.

We oppose lynching because we wish to protect and uphold our laws, not guilty victims, and because the practice has a debasing effect upon those who participate. There is a better way to obtain justice.

Many overlook entirely the only reasonable grounds for opposition to lynch law. Sympathy for the victim is misplaced, if he is guilty. The punishment is justified whether legal or extra-legal.

When two white murderers were lynched in Californin, protests were comparatively few, and many governors, ministers and others announced their approval. The organizations which have shouted protests against the Marianna lynching were, for the most part, silent then.

There is no logic in an attempt to draw a distinction between the lynching of white persons and black or between a lynching in the south and elsewhere.

Lynching, even though the guilt of the accused is beyond doubt, is wrong everywhere and regardless of the color of the victim, not because the punishment is unjustified, but because it tends to tear down laws the people have made for their own protection and which should be regarded with veneration and respect.

Those who protest only when the victim is black and is lynched in the south and who base their protests upon a desire to protect a guilty person, entitled to no sympathy, are defeating their own ends.

We are for law enforcement because we hold our basic laws in high regard but we have no respect and no sympathy for any individual who forfeits his rights and his life.

And if we never hear again a protest from any organization based upon nothing more than sectional antagonism or maudlin sympathy for guilty brutes, it will be too soon.

Lynchings - 1934
Legislation Relating to.

4736

EL PASO TEX.
HERALD

APR 27 1934

Repeal Lynch Law

THE issue of law against barbarism is placed squarely before congress in two printed volumes of testimony taken at committee hearings on the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill.

The revolting disclosures in this testimony should convince the most ardent states' righter that federal action is needed if this country ever is to repeal lynch law.

Out of 5053 authenticated lynchings since 1882 there were 1438 whites and 3513 colored. Of these victims 94 were women. In the decade between 1918 and 1928, 42 victims were burned alive, and 32 others were subjected to other torture. In 1933, 28 lives were sacrificed to lynch law. Many since have been proved innocent. In hardly any instance has a state punished the lynchers.

The proposed measure, like the federal anti-kidnaping law, realistically acknowledges that here is a situation that localities are failing to meet.

"The committee believes," says the Van Nuys subcommittee report, "that this bill does not propose an invasion or a subversion of the rights of states. On the contrary, the proposed legislation is an aid to the several states in assuring to their citizens the equal protection of the laws, both state and federal, to which all citizens are entitled."

MILWAUKEE, WIS.
LEADER

MAY 4 1934

FEDERAL ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

In a campaign to put added support behind the federal anti-lynching bill, pending before the senate, the American Civil Liberies Union has sent out a pamphlet appeal to its 3,500 members and others throughout the country. The pamphlet deals with the objections raised against the bill by southern opponents and by lawyers. The bill provides for federal prosecution of state officials who refuse or fail to act against lynchers, for federal prosecution of lynchers themselves, and for fines on counties where lynchings occur.

To the chief argument that the bill is unconstitutional the union cites the opinions of distinguished authorities that the federal government may intervene when states fail to give citizens the "equal protection of the law" guaranteed in the constitution. A practical objection that the bill cannot stop lynching because the federal government acts only after lynchings occur is answered by showing the deterrent effect of the fear of federal action. "Following the national campaign for a lynching bill in 1922," say the union, "lynchings in 1923 dropped to 28 from 63 in the previous year."

The contention that a federal law would not be more effective than present state anti-lynching laws is countered by indicating that federal action is much freer from local influences." Juries may be selected from parts of the federal district away from the locality where the lynching occurs, and federal district attorneys act under orders from Washington, not under local pressure." The clause for fines for counties where these crimes occur is important, the Civil Liberties Union says to those who oppose it, since it will enlist the support of the so-called "good" people, the taxpayers, in the fight against lynching.

YOUNGSTOWN, O.
VINDICATOR

MAY 5 1934

The Anti-Lynching Bill

Objection has been raised to passage of the federal anti-lynching bill on the ground that it would infringe upon state rights, but in the few states where efforts have been made to punish lynching mobs failure to bring the leaders to justice has been the result. For years lynching has been pointed to as common to the Southern States and has been condoned in failure to punish the mobs. In only one instance has a commonwealth been disgraced by a Governor's approval of a lynching, and that was last year in a Northern State.

The committee hearings on the federal anti-lynching bill brought out much testimony about an evil known for many years and conditions which at Washington are believed to answer the objections raised in the South where the states are zealous of their rights. The testimony showed that mob law does not rule in any one section of the country, nor are its victims members of any particular race or sex. In the last 50 years 5,053 lynchings have been recorded, nearly three out of every five victims being Negroes. In the year ending before the depression set in 42 persons were burned alive, and 32 were otherwise tortured.

Last year lynchings claimed 28 victims, many of them later being proved innocent of the crimes with which they were charged.

The fact that the number of lynchings last year was about a fourth the annual rate for the last 50 years shows that public sentiment has had strong influence against mobs taking the law into their hands.

The states by their neglect or inability to mete out punishment for lynching mobs have opened the way for federal legislation which the present bill is designed to give the country. The general government is now looked to for effective measures to meet the crime situation, and eventually will have the authority it needs. Most of the kidnapings have been solved since the department's agents have been active, and this fact is used in support of the anti-lynching bill.

Constitution
Atlanta Ga
5-29-34

COSTIGAN MAKES PLEA FOR ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

WASHINGTON, May 28.—(AP)—Appealing to the senate to pass the anti-lynching bill before adjournment, Senator Costigan, democrat, Colorado, asserted today "never in our history have protests against the anarchy of lynching risen to any comparable high level of popular conviction."

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DALLAS, TEX.
TIMES HERALD

MAY 20 1934

THE LATEST ANTI-LYNCHING LAW

THE ANTI-LYNCHING LAW which has been introduced in congress by Senators Wagner of New York and Costigan of Colorado is, like other proposals of the kind, based on the theory that the federal government should punish state officials who fail to prevent lynching or connive at mob action.

The measure makes state officials in states where lynchings occur liable to prosecution in federal courts and to heavy fines or imprisonment. It also provides for the levying of fines against counties that experience lynching.

It is doubtful that mobs would refrain from action merely to keep the governor, the sheriff, or any other state officer from being punished, or even to prevent their county from being fined.

This law might cause some peace officers to be more diligent in trying to save prisoners, but would it make them any more willing to turn machine guns on mobs? In all probability the local officer would conduct himself in accordance with public sentiment. It would not be easy to convince a jury, which would, of course, be composed of citizens of the district in which the lynching occurred, that the state officer had been guilty of criminal neglect.

This bill would empower the federal authorities to prosecute lynchers when the state authorities prove dilatory. If this is constitutional, why should it not be constitutional to allow the federal authorities to take the initiative in the first place?

Mob action is despicable and it should be prevented if possible, but if we make state officials answerable to the federal government in this instance, we set a precedent for making them answerable to Uncle Sam for their conduct with reference to all other crime.

After all it is no more logical to have the federal government punish sheriffs for failing to prevent lynching than it would be to have it punish them for not preventing bank robberies, murders and other crimes.

New York Evening Post

JUN 2 - 1934

Action Needed Against Lynching

To the Editor of New York Post:

Sir—Will you permit us to place before your readers the critical situation regarding the Costigan-Wagner bill now pending before Congress to give authority for Federal aid to States in suppressing lynching Organizations with a total membership of more than forty million have endorsed the bill and are actively supporting it, among them being the Y. W. C. A., the Federal Council of Churches of Christ, the Woman's Missionary Council of the M. E. Church, South; the American Civil Liberties Union, the Writers' League Against Lynching, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and many others. President Roosevelt has publicly declared his wish for a vote at this session of Congress. Impartial polls of the Senate and the House reveal an overwhelming majority for the bill.

But a very small bloc of Senators is determined to keep the bill from being voted on before Congress adjourns. One Senator who come from a State which has one of the worst lynching records, is reported as saying that the bill will be voted on "only over my dead body." Another Senator, also from a State with a very bad record, has threatened a filibuster if the President's request for a vote on the measure is complied with.

What, meanwhile, are the facts bearing on the assertion that lynching should be left to the States?

Last July 4, Norris Dendy, a Negro, was lynched at Clinton, for quarrelling with a white man. Although eye witnesses identified members of the mob, including officers of the law, who lynched Dendy, no indictments have yet been returned and it is exceedingly doubtful if any will be returned.

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In California the mob murderers of Holmes and Thurman walk the streets free and unmolested following the brazen defense of the lynchings by Governor Rolph.

Ten men, against whom Attorney General Lane of Maryland secured positive evidence that they helped lynch George Armwood on the Eastern Shore of Maryland last October, are symbols of the impotence of the State in the face of the mob. It will be remembered that not only were State troopers run out of the Eastern shore when they sought to arrest these ten lynchers but the mob even threatened to lynch Governor Ritchie and Mr. Lane.

We Americans wax indignant whenever lynchings occur but many of us promptly go back to sleep when no lynchings are occurring. At least fourteen lynchings have been prevented since the Costigan-Wagner bill was introduced, because of fear that such lynchings would speed enactment of the Costigan-Wagner bill. Every person who believes that the law should take its course and that lynching should be suppressed is urged to wire or write President Roosevelt urging him to insist on a vote on the bill before Congress adjourns, and also to communicate with his Congressmen and United States Senators urging them to insist on a vote and to support the bill. An aroused public opinion, and it alone, can insure enactment of this very needed legislation.

WALTER WHITE,
Secretary National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

WORCESTER, MASS.
TELEGRAM

JUN 2 1934

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

This column is open to all readers for expression of opinion. As an evidence of good faith contributors are expected to sign name and address. When it is so requested the name will not be published.

TO SUPPRESS LYNCHINGS

Costigan-Wagner Bill Should Be Supported, Is Argument

To the Editor of the Telegram:

Will you permit us to place before your readers the critical situation regarding the Costigan-Wagner bill now pending before Congress to give authority for federal aid to states in suppressing lynching? Organizations with a total membership of more than 40,000,000 have endorsed the bill and are actively supporting it, among them being the Y. W. C. A., the Federal Council of Churches of Christ, the Woman's Missionary Council of the M. E. Church, South, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Writers' League Against Lynching, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and many others.

President Roosevelt has publicly declared his wish for a vote at this session of Congress. Impartial polls of the Senate and the House reveal an overwhelming majority for the bill.

But a very small bloc of senators are determined to keep the bill from being voted on before Congress adjourns. One senator who comes from a state which has one of the worst lynching records is reported as saying that the bill will be voted on "only over my dead body." Another senator, also from a state with a very bad record, has threatened a filibuster if the President's request for a vote on the measure is compiled with.

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WALTER WHITE,
Secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.
New York, May 31.

Palmetto Leader
6-2-34
Columbia, S.C.

LOUISIANA PEACE OFFICERS ASK ANTI-LYNCHING LAW

Lake Charles, La., May 19,—At the recent meeting here of the Louisiana Association of Peace Officers, 109 officers from all parts of the state personally signed a repudiation of mob violence and endorsement of anti-lynching. The meeting went on record also as favoring a state anti-lynching law and lauded Sheriff Hughes of Shreveport for repulsing a recent mob attack on the Caddo Parish Jail.

The anti-lynching cause was presented by Mrs. Ben Knox, of Shreveport, state chairman of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. Her address was heard with marked interest and sympathy by the assembled officers, and the Association's anti-lynching program was endorsed in a resolution from the floor. Mrs. Knox then presented for personal signatures the following statement.

Believing that Lynching does not belong in our American civilization; that it is within itself a violation of the law; that it is State of Louisiana, endorse the educational program of the Association of Women for the preventin of lynching.

One hundred and nine of the assembled officers promptly affixed their signatures, including sheriffs, dupties, mayors, detectives, police chiefs and patrolmen. Mrs. Knox was invited to attend next year's convention of the officers and was booked for another address at that time. Reporting to the headquarters of the anti-lynching association in Atlanta, she says.

The convention was a most interesting event for me. Never have I had such a royal greetng reception and response. I feel that the way has been paved for our women all over the state to visit their respective sheriffs, and shall beginat once the effort to have them do so.

The Association of Southern women for the prevention of lynching was organized in 1930 by Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, of the commission on Interracial Cooperation It now has branches in thirteen states, with 19.000 signed members who have pleded themselves to combat lynching in every way possible.

Ashland, Ky., Independent
November 5, 1934

ANTI-LYNCHING PROGRAMS.

Following the recent lynching in Florida, Senators Wagner of New York and Costigan of Colorado announced their intention of introducing again in Congress their anti-lynching bill, which was defeated in the last session.

More important, however, than laws providing for the punishment of lynchers will be public education on this subject and a stiffening of the public determination to stop it. There is evidence that this process is already well begun.

The Virginia Council of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching sent a telegram to the attorney general of the United States affirming their opposition to lynching for any cause and urging him to investigate the Florida lynching and bring the guilty to justice. From the western North Caroline conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in its annual session, a telegram was sent to the President, asking him to invoke the Lindbergh law against the lynchers who first kidnapped their victim and held him a day before completing their mob crime. Other groups show the same attitude.

It is no justification of any lynching to say that the victim deserved his fate. Even if that were true, the use of mob violence, the disregard of the legal channels of justice and the arousing of hideous mass emotions would remain wholly degrading to the participants and menacing to society.

Lynchings-1934
Legislation Relating to.

4737

PHILADELPIA, PA.
RECORD

MAY 9 1934

REED AND PINCHOT ATTACK EACH OTHER

Governor Termed 'Tightwad' by Senator, Calls Foe 'Party Millstone.'

The campaign being waged by U. S. Senator David A. Reed and Governor Pinchot for the Republican Senatorial nomination reached a new high in name-calling last night.

The Governor's first thrust at his rival a few weeks ago was "Mellon's errand bay." Reed came back with "unscrupulous politician and a common scold."

Last night at the Broadway A. C., where he addressed 800 Negroes, Reed let loose this one at the Governor:

"A millionaire who never gave 15 cents to a charitable institution in his life."

Charges Political Tribute.

That was Reed's peroration to a denunciation of political assessments he charged are being levied on State employes to fill the Pinchot war chest.

Reed pictured himself a great friend of the Negroes and told of legislation, including the anti-lynching bill, he supported in the Senate.

He declared himself a friend of the plain people, cited his chairmanship of a hospital board in Pittsburgh and pointed out that Pinchot cut appropriations to hospitals and other charitable institutions.

Points to Pinchot Veto.

"I have done more for the plain people of Pennsylvania in a single year," he proclaimed, "than Pinchot has done in the 69 years of his life."

He pointed to Pinchot's veto of a bill authorizing formation of a Negro battalion in the Pennsylvania National Guard as evidence that the Governor is no friend of that race.

Earlier in the day he charged that the Governor is "exploiting the State payroll in the most brazen way, but even here he is due for a sad disappointment."

Pinchot Speaks on Radio.

Pinchot in a State-wide radio broadcast said:

"One of the things that is hurting Senator Reed's candidacy is the growing belief that if Reed wins in May. the Republican Party cannot win in November.

"Reed a Millstone."

"Reed on the Republican ticket would be a millstone around the neck of the Republican Party. Reed on the ticket would insure Republican defeat. Thousands who have never supported me before are supporting me now on that ground alone.

"Nothing is more certain than that Reed's nomination at the coming primary would insure Democratic victory in the fall. It is therefore perfectly true that a vote for Reed is a vote for Republican defeat. A vote for iPnchot is a vote for Republican victory in the fall."

The Governor warned against the possibility that the closing days of the campaign will bring unfavorable rumors regarding the state of his health.

"Word will be sent out of Reed headquarters that I have suddenly broken down, had a stroke, suffered an attack of epizootic or housemaid's knee, been run over or blown up, or have had some other attack that puts me out of the race. If you hear any such drivel, remember that it will be a campaign lie of the most contemptible kind."

Kaufman Indorsed.

David E. Kaufman, former U. S. Minister to Siam and Bolivia, yesterday returned from the anthracite regions and announced that he has been indorsed for Lieutenant Governor by Judge John S. Fine, of Wilkes-Barre, Pinchot leader in Luzerne county.

He also declared that another Pinchot leader, Judge Ralph H. Smith, of Pittsburgh, is supporting him.

Fine is supporting Attorney General William A. Schnader for Governor, while Smith is behind Lieutenant Governor Edward C. Shannon.

Schnader was in Pittsburgh yesterday and was guest of honor at a meeting of the Allegheny Bar Association. Last night in a radoa broadcast from Pittsburgh he defined his stand on labor questions.

"I believe in security for labor," he said. "There can be no progress, let alone happiness, without security. I applaud the extraordinary efforts of the national administration to increase the number of jobs by reducing hours. I applaud its efforts to make a living wage the rule in industry. We in Pennsylvania must find out way again to the place in which our laboring people can plan for years for a lifetime."

He said that he regards the conduct of the Department of LIabor and Industry as a major responsibility and that he is an enemy of the sweatshop.

ANTI-LYNCH BILL DIES IN SENATE

Afro-American [illegible]

AFRO Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill w passed over in the Senate last Wednesday when Senator Kenneth D. McKellar, Democrat of Tennessee, objected to its consideration. The Senate at the time was considering bills on the calendar under a unanimous-consent agreement.

Earlier on the same day, Vice-President John N. Garner had presented to the Senate a letter from Robert H. Wheeler, vice-president of the Newark (N.J.) branch of the NAACP, urging the prompt passage of the bill.

COLUMBUS, O.
DISPATCH

JUN 10 193

COSTIGAN-WAGNER BILL

For Federal Aid in Preventing Mob Law Action

To the Editor of The Dispatch.

Sir: Will you permit us to place before your readers the critical situation regarding the Costigan-Wagner bill now pending before congress to give authority for federal aid to states in suppressing lynching. Organizations with a total membership of more than forty million have indorsed the bill and are actively supporting it, among them being the Y. M. C. A., the Federal Council of Churches of Christ, the Woman's Missionary Council of the M. E. Church, South, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Writers' League Against Lynching, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and many others. President Roosevelt has publicly declared his wish for a vote at this session of congress. Impartial polls of the senate and the house reveal an overwhelming majority for the bill.

But a very small bloc of senators are determined to keep the bill from being voted on before congress adjourns. One senator who comes from a state which has one of the worst lynching records is reported as saying that the bill will be voted on "only over my dead body." Another senator, also from a state with a very bad record, has threatened a filibuster if the president's request for a vote on the measure is complied with.

What, meanwhile, are the facts bearing on the assertion that lynching should be left to the states?

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Walter White, secretary,
National Association for Advancement
Of Colored People.

Rockville Center, N. Y.
NASSAU DAILY REVIEW

JUN 4 1934

Baldwin Reader Urges Support Of Federal Anti-Lynching Bill

Editor, Nassau Daily Review:

A nation-wide appeal is being made for assistance in securing the passage of the Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynching Bill (S. 1978). This bill provides for the federal prosecution of state officials who fail to make efforts to detect and punish lynchers and of alleged lynchers themselves, and the imposing of a fine, $2,000 to $10,000 on the county in which the lynching takes place, the fine to be paid to the family of the victim.

The bill was carefully prepared and was sponsored in the senate by Senator Edward P. Costigan of Colorado and Senator Robert L. Wagner of New York. In the Judiciary committee changes were made in the original bill. A slight variation in phrasing lends the bill to the interpretation that prosecution of negligent or collusive peace officers and members of a mob can follow only when the person of the victim has been in the custody of the law. This limits its application, as in many lynchings the mob wreaks its fury on a person who has not been in custody and its action is based solely on unproven suspicion and prejudice. Efforts are being made to have this limitation removed, but even if unsuccessful in that regard, the passage of a federal anti-lynching bill will be a great step toward assuring to all Americans, regardless of race or color, the full protection of the law, and will act as a deterrent to people who, in time of emotional stress, judge, condemn and execute their fellow citizens.

Regarding the constitutionality of such a law, expert opinion holds that the federal government is obligated to protect all persons from violence, as the 14th Amendment to the Constitution states: "Nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

It is the indifference of the majority of people in a community, not their active participation, which permits the continuance of lynching. The provision of a fine enlists their self-interest as taxpayers and has been found effective in the state of South Carolina where lynchings have steadily declined.

94 Women Among Victims

The vigorous action of the federal government, operating under the new laws against kidnaping, it is hoped will bring this crime under control. However, the number of kidnapings in the last half century is small as compared with the total of 5,053 persons who have been tortured, shot, hanged or burned to death since 1882. Of this number 3,513 victims have been negroes. The remaining 1,540 are classified as "white" and include persons of Jewish extraction, orientals, and Indians, both Mexican and American. A fact not generally known is that 94 women have been lynched in the past 50 years. Certainly such a situation should not be ignored. Throughout the world American proclamations on the rights of small nations and minority races will be regarded as insincere so long as lynching exists within our own borders.

The roster of organizations supporting the Anti-Lynching Bill includes the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, the Public Affairs committee of the National Board of the Y. M. C. A., The Social Justice commission of the Central Council of American Rabbis, the Y. M. C. A., the Holy Name society of Newark, the New Orleans Lodge of the B. P. O. E., the League for Industrial Democracy, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Methodist Federation of Social Service. Space does not premit a complete listing, but these organizations represent religious, social and political groups of every type, with a membership of forty million persons.

Favored In Senate

The Anti-Lynching Bill now awaits action by the senate and a recent poll indicates that there are enough votes to insure passage. Known supporters in the House also indicate a majority in its favor. However, a small bloc of senators are desperately trying to prevent the bill's being voted on at this session. These men fear that if they vote for the bill they may antagonize some white voters and they know that if they vote against it they will surely antagonize their negro constituents and many white ones. Confronted with loss of political ground, they sacrifice principle and use the old ruse of delay and filibuster. If this bill is not voted on at the present session of congress, the tremendous work connected with its preparation, presentation and the campaign in favor of it will have to be done over again.

The year 1933, with its 28 deaths and instances where local and state authorities permitted and publicly approved lynchings, shows that federal action is needed to overcome this national disgrace. Every year lost adds more human sacrifices to barbarism.

The support of every individual and organization is needed for the Anti-Lynching bill now. A petition for signatures is being circulated in Nassau county and copies can be obtained by writing to 129 North Grove street, Freeport. Churches, schools fraternal, social and political groups should prepare resolutions endorsing this bill and forward them to the Anti-Lynching Campaign committee, 69 Fifth avenue, New York city. Letters should be addressed to our representatives in congress, Senators Robert F. Wagner and Royal S. Copeland, and representative Robert L. Bacon, urging their support of the measure in congress.

This is a long letter and many people will not have the patience to read it and consider the facts it presents. To those who do read it, I add a final plea. Immediate action is necessary! Your assistance will cost only a few cents postage and a little time. So long as we are content to do nothing to prevent torture and death at the hands of mobs, we too are guilty! Join the crusade to abolish lynching!

GERTRUDE B. STONE.
129 North Grove street,
Freeport, L. I., N. Y.

May 23, 1934.

NEW YORK WORLD Telegram

JUN 26 1934

RESBYTERIANS BACK ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

onvention Ends Indorsing Campaign Against Liquor and Indecent Movies—Card Ban Defeated.

y the Associated Press.

OXFORD, Ohio, June 26.—Amid host of indorsements, covering subects ranging from prohibition and nti-lynching legislation to moral notion pictures, munitions and the World Court, the seventy-sixth genral assembly of the United Presyterian Church concluded its sesions last night.

The assembly agreed to support he Wagner-Costigan bill, which would make lynching a federal ofense, and pledged support to the Anti-Saloon League, the W. C. T. U. and the proposed Twenty-second Amendment to the Constitution, which would vest liquor control under federal autority.

The assembly approved campaigns for decency in motion pictures. After a storm of discussion the Kansas City presbytery memorial advocating denial of church funds to colleges permitting card playing and dancing was defeated.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
June 19, 1934

CONGRESS FAILS TO ACT ON ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

WASHINGTON, June 18.—(AP)—Senator Costigan, democrat, Colorado, today made a final but unsuccessful effort to obtain action on his anti-lynching bill.

Opposition to consideration of the bill was raised by Senator Smith, democrat, South Carolina, and others. Costigan said he was undismayed by failure to get a vote at this session, and added he intended to put the matter before the next congress.

"It is unfortunate that a minority group has succeeded in blocking this legislation particularly in view of the fact we have countless indications that there is a genuine demand for an anti-lynching law," Costigan said.

MEASURE IS BLOCKED BY ITS ENEMIES

Journal and Guide

Sen. McKellar Deals Death Blow As Body Adjourns

6-23-34

WHITE FLAYS BLOC

Norfolk, Va

NAACP Makes Ready For Fight In Next Session

WASHINGTON, D. C.— Using every trick and privilege to which members of Congress are entitled, several senators blocked every effort to bring the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill up on the floor of the Senate for a vote before the adjournment of Congress.

The final yank on the rope which lynched the measure at least so far as the session which closed Tuesday is concerned was made by Senator Kenneth McKellar, democrat of Tennessee, who objected to a unanimous consent agreement to consider the bill Wednesday of last week.

Earlier on the same day Vice President John N. Garner had presented to the Senate a letter in the nature of a petition from Robert H. Wheeler, vice president of the Newark, New Jersey, branch of the N. A. A. C. P., urging prompt passage of the Costigan-Wagner bill.

Senators Wagner and Costigan fathers of the bill, submitted a joint statement to Senator Joseph T. Robinson, leader of the Senate, quoting the request of President Roosevelt that a vote be taken before the end of the session. Senator Robinson turned a deaf ear, as he has all spring.

Assistant to Lynchers

A statement issued in New York by Walter White, secretary of the N. A. A. C. P. branded all persons who have blocked consideration of the bill as "assistant lynchers."

"The record on this bill is clear," the N. A. A. C. P. statement said. "It passed the judiciary committee. It had a great public opinion behind it, both of white and Negroes and of northerners and southerners. It had the favor of the White House. It had an overwhelmning majority of votes pledged for its passage if it ever came up.

"The one stumbling block has been getting it before the Senate for a vote. That stumbling block has been created by a small bloc of Senators who could not hope to defeat the bill once it got on the floor, so they used all their privileges and tricks to keep it off the floor.

"The Senators who have blocked it cannot escape being classed as assistants in every lynching which takes place from this time forth. They have taken sides with the mob and against law and order.

"Whenever the so-called hoodlums of Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia, Arkansas, and Louisana lynch a man, they will be aided by the senators from their states, just as surely as though the senators were in the mobs.

Get Your Enemies

"Some of the enemies of this bill can be reached in the next election; some come from states where Negro voters are barred from the ballot. The records of all will be exposed to the Negro citizens of the country so that enemies may be distinguished from friends, for no representative can pose as a friend of Negroes or of humanity who favors lynching."

Another last minute appeal to President Roosevelt was sent by the N. A. A. C. P. urging action on the bill. Mr. White said the N. A. A. C. P. would not cease its efforts even though the bill is not acted upon now.

A still more intense and susained fight will be made at the next session, he said.

Federal Anti-Lynching Bill Fails

Journal and Guide
6-23-34
Norfolk, Va.

CONGRESS adjourned without passing the COSTIGAN-WAGNER anti-lynching bill. The final opportunity for [illegible] consideration was killed Monday by the objection of Senator S[illegible] South Carolina.

The final drive in its behalf was in the nature of a joint resolution of the General Assembly of the [illegible] of New Jersey, requesting the Congress [illegible] the measure. This resolution was preented to the Senate last Friday by Senators [illegible] and BARBOUR, of New Jersey. The resolution was at the same time presented to the House by Representative EDWARD A. [illegible], of New Jersey.

Opposition to the anti-lynching bill came almost unanimously from the South. Support for it from the North and West. Of the 4,751 lynchings of which there is a record from 1882 to 1930, 4,006 occurred in southern states. So, it is apparent that in the matter of Federal law the geography and the politics of lynching go hand in hand.

There is sentiment against lynching in the South, but a very definite feeling against making it a Federal offense. It is difficult to enforce state laws against lynching in the South, and many persons who are very much opposed to mob violence feel that it would be much more difficult to curb lynching under a Federal law for the reason that the states would not coöperate. That is one side of it. The other side is that the representatives of the southern states in Congress, and the southern politicians who are responsible for them being there resent the enactment of any laws aimed at any thing done in the South, if the legislation is initiated in the North, or if it affects favorably the citizenship status of Negroes.

Lynchings - 1934
Legislation Relating to.

4738

"A Vicious Bill"

Under that caption does the Detroit Free Press, in straight-from-the-shoulder manner, attack the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill which forces particularly antagonistic to the South hope to get approved by the present Congress.

The Free Press attack will shock those who attempted to resort to sectionalism in urging the bill's passage and who have tried to claim that the only opposition to the measure has come from Southern sources.

Commenting on the fact that an "under surface battle" is being waged to keep the bill from coming to a vote in the Senate, the Detroit newspaper warns that an open battle can be expected if it ever comes up on the floor.

It classifies the provisions of the bill permitting federal suit against counties where lynchings occur and providing fines against counties as high as $10,000, as "an ominous invasion of the police powers of the several states, for," the Free Press asks, "if a county may be mulcted by the federal courts for allowing a mob murder, why not for individual murder? If for murder, why not for any other felony?"

"Objections by Southern senators to the Wagner-Costigan bill," it continues, "do not necessarily indicate sympathy with lynching. The South has from the beginning of our history championed the state rights which the bill would undermine. What is more, an educational campaign carried on by leading men and women in the South cut the number of lynchings to 10 in 1929. The figure snapped back to 21 in 1930, a year of general demoralization. Then it dropped to 13 in 1931 and to eight in 1932. The states are abundantly able to deal with lynchings, as with other crimes of violence. The matter is best left to them.

"Would Senator Wagner," asks the Free Press, "advocate the federal mulcting of the City of New York of $10,000 for each of its 565 homicides in 1932? There is no more rhyme, reason, or justice in fining innocent people of counties in other states where sporadic instances of lawlessness occur.

"Communal responsibility for crime is a novel doctrine in this country."

The Free Press well labels the Wagner-Costigan measure as a "vicious bill." A more reprehensible measure is difficult to conceive. Lynchings are not sectional. Neither is intelligence. The people of other sections are beginning to awake to the insincerity motivating it, and the dangers contained in the measure sponsored by the gentlemen of New York and Colorado.

CLEVELAND, O.
NEWS

APR 30 1934

FAVORS LYNCH BILL

Congressman Young Also for Income Tax Publicity

Congressman Stephen M. Young told the St. James A. M. E. literary forum at 8401 Cedar ave. yesterday that he favored passage of the anti-lynching bill now pending in Congress.

He also announced that he would vote in the House today in favor of publicity on income tax returns.

"Secrecy enabled J. P. Morgan to avoid payment of any income taxes to his government for three years," he declared. "The public is entitled to know those who are honorably and justly meeting their tax obligations and those who are escaping."

TOLEDO, O.
NEWS-BEE

APR 28 1934

Repeal Lynch Law

THE issue of law against barbarism is placed squarely before congress in two printed volumes of testimony taken at committee hearings on the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill.

The revolting disclosures in this testimony should convince the most ardent states righter than federal action is needed if this country ever is to repeal lynch law. They reveal also that mob law is confined to no particular section, nor are its victims confined to one race or sex.

Out of 5053 authenticated lynchings since 1882 there were 1438 whites and 3513 colored. Of these victims 94 were women. In the decade between 1918 and 1928, 42 victims were burned alive, and 32 others were subjected to other torture. In 1933, 28 lives were sacrificed to lynch law. Many since have been proved innocent. In hardly any instance has a state punished the lynchers.

The proposed measure, like the federal anti-kidnaping law, realistically acknowledges that here is a situation that localities are failing to meet.

"The committee believes," says the Van Nuys subcommittee report, "that this bill does not propose an invasion or a subversion of the rights of states. On the contrary, the proposed legislation is an aid to the several states in assuring to their citizens the equal protection of the laws, both state and federal, to which all citizens are entitled."

It is to be hoped the authors of this measure insist upon a roll call this session.

AKRON, O.
TIMES PRESS

APR 20 1934

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Out of 5053 authenticated lynchings since 1882 there were 1438 whites and 3513 colored. Of these victims 94 were women. In the decade between 1918 and 1928, 42 victims were burned alive, and 32 others were subjected to other torture. In 1933, 28 lives were sacrificed to lynch law. Many since have been proved innocent. In hardly any instance has a state punished the lynchers.

The proposed measure, like the federal anti-kidnaping law, realistically acknowledges that here is a situation that localities are failing to meet.

"The committee believes," says the Van Nuys subcommittee report, "that this bill does not propose an invasion or a subversion of the rights of states. On the contrary, the proposed legislation is an aid to the several states in assuring to their citizens the equal protection of the laws, both state and federal, to which all citizens are entitled."

It is to be hoped the authors of this measure insist upon a roll call this session.

CLEVELAND, O.
PRESS

MAY 2 1934

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BUFFALO, N. Y.
TIMES

APR 20 1934

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MEMPHIS, TENN.
COMMERCIAL APPEAL

APR 25 1934

"A Vicious Bill"

Under that caption does the Detroit Free Press, in straight-from-the-shoulder manner attack the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill which forces particularly antagonistic to the South hope to get approved by the present Congress.

The Free Press attack will shock those who attempted to resort to sectionalism in urging the bill's passage and who have tried to claim that the only opposition to the measure has come from Southern sources.

Commenting on the fact that an "under surface battle" is being waged to keep the bill from coming to a vote in the Senate, the Detroit newspaper warns that an open battle can be expected if it ever comes up on the floor.

It classifies the provisions of the bill permitting federal suit against counties where lynchings occur and providing fines against counties as high as $10,000, as "an ominous invasion of the police powers of the several states, for," the Free Press asks, "if a county may be mulcted by the federal courts for allowing a mob murder, why not for individual murder? If for murder, why not for any other felony?"

"Objections by Southern senators to the Wagner-Costigan bill," it continues, "do not necessarily indicate sympathy with lynching. The South has from the beginning of our history championed the state rights which the bill would undermine. What is more, an educational campaign carried on by leading men and women in the South cut the number of lynchings to 10 in 1929. The figure snapped back to 21 in 1930, a year of general demoralization. Then it dropped to 13 in 1931 and to eight in 1932. The states are abundantly able to deal with lynchings, as with other crimes of violence. The matter is best left to them.

"Would Senator Wagner," asks the Free Press, "advocate the federal mulcting of the City of New York of $10,000 for each of its 565 homicides in 1932? There is no more rhyme, reason, or justice in fining innocent people of counties in other states where sporadic instances of lawlessness occur.

"Communal responsibility for crime is a novel doctrine in this country."

The Free Press well labels the Wagner-Costigan measure as a "vicious bill." A more reprehensible measure is difficult to conceive. Lynchings are not sectional. Neither is intelligence. The people of other sections are beginning to awake to the insincerity motivating it, and the dangers contained in the measure sponsored by the gentlemen of New York and Colorado.

Wichita Falls, Tex.
TIMES

APR 14 1934

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

The fact that the senate judiciary committee has given a favorable report to the Wagner-Costigan bill intended to make lynching a federal offense makes it more likely that this measure will be brought to a vote at this session. It embodies a plan which has long been urged, and some powerful forces are aligned in favor of it. It is going to require some aggressive action on the part of those opposed to it, to prevent its passage.

As originally drawn, the bill provided that any officer who failed to exercise diligence in protecting a prisoner from a mob, or who neglected to do his part in apprehending those engaging in mob violence, would be subject to maximum penalties of five years' imprisonment and a $5,000 fine. An officer who aided or abetted mob violence could be imprisoned for life, under the bill.

The bill also provided that the county in which a lynching takes place should be fined $10,000, to be turned over to the dependents of the person lynched. If there were no dependents, the money would go into the federal treasury.

The authors of the bill, Senators Wagner of New York and Costigan of Colorado, both Democrats, have pointed out that the federal government would not be empowered to take any steps, under this measure, until the state had failed to do its duty.

The judiciary committee in favorably reporting the bill made several changes in it. One of these changes undertakes to define a mob as "an assemblage of three or more people, acting in concert to kill or injure any person in the custody of a peace officer." The amount of the fine to which counties would be subjected was changed from a flat $10,000 to read "not less than $2,000 and not more than $10,000." Otherwise the bill remains as originally written.

In the event of a lynching, the federal government would not act if the state administered punishment to the officer in whose charge the prisoner was, or if it punished the members of the mob. If neither of these things happened, a federal inquiry would then be made. It would deal first with the sheriff or other officer from whom the prisoner was taken, to ascertain whether he exercised the courage, caution and resourcefulness required of him. Also, whether there was any connivance between him and the mob.

The inquiry would next be directed to the mob itself. Efforts would be made to identify and apprehend the mob members and to bring them to justice. The trials, of course, would be in federal court. The bill does not contemplate, however, that the federal authority shall take any action until the state authorities have failed.

Another feature of the bill is that which provides for an indemnity or forfeit, by the county in which the lynching took place. This would be $2,000 to $10,000 and would be paid to the dependents of the person lynched.

The bill differs from the Dyer anti-lynching bill in that it does not call for any federal action until the state and local officials have failed to punish the guilty persons. In this respect, of course, it is a less objectionable measure than the former one under which the federal authority would have been empowered to step in without waiting for the state to act.

The basic objection to the measure is not affected by the changes that were made in it. It is an utterly unwarranted extension of the federal police power, an invasion of a field that clearly belongs to the states.

The situation in regard to lynching has improved greatly in recent years. The lynching evil has not disappeared but there is abundant evidence of an awakening of public opinion in the South that will lead to its virtual eradication. Officers are more and more prone to resist mobs, and some of them have shown great courage and resourcefulness in doing so. While it is not yet possible, apparently, to obtain convictions of persons participating in lynchings, there is a much greater disposition to move in that direction. In some comparatively recent instances, persons accused of mob violence eventually escaped conviction, but only after spending long periods in jail awaiting trials. There are other evidences of the South's desire and determination to put an end to mob violence. It is doubtful if the situation would be materially improved by authorizing federal interference.

Sentiment for federal legislation on the subject, however, has been growing steadily. The measure probably will not pass at this session, but efforts in its behalf will be renewed later. The most effective way to combat it is for the South to adopt an attitude toward lynching that will show federal legislation to be unnecessary.

N. Y. HERALD

JUN 20 1934

Orphan Bills Congress Left Only Sleeping

Many Measures Left in Rush to Adjourn Will Find Place on 1935 Calendar

Soldiers' Bonus Is One

Unemployment and Pension Acts Also Face Revival

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, June 19.—Supporters of several measures which failed during the Seventy-third Congress had the consolation today of knowing the bills are not dead—merely sleeping.

For example, the proposal to pay the soldiers' bonus in full and cash will revive just as certainly as the legislators come back in January. The House passed the bonus bill but the Senate voted it down after President Roosevelt let it be known that he felt this was no time to pay up.

An unemployment insurance measure and an old age pension bill were discarded, too, but the President already has promised to propose such legislaiton to the next Congress.

The Chief Executive indorsed amendments to the agricultural adjustment act, but opposition to them was so strong he let the proposed changes die in the Senate. The bill probably will be presented again at the next session.

Another bill that had White House approval, and yet was left stranded, was the one which would have given Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, additional power to control oil production.

The Administration blocked quite a few measures which had strong support. One of these was the McLeod bill which would have directed Federal payment of money depositors lost in closed banks. A compromise was reached which directs a more liberal appraisal of the assets in defunct institutions.

The Connery bill to fix a thirty-hour week by law never got far, and a bill for a thirty-hour week for railroad employees was left to gather dust in a pigeon hole.

The stock market regulatory measure was enacted, but Mr. Roosevelt apparently felt that its companion piece, Federal supervision of the commodity, could wait until next session.

Other bills about which much was said, but not enough to get them to the White House, included:

The Copeland-Tugwell measure for tightening of the pure food and drug laws.

The bill to make lynchings a Federal offense.

The perennial measure to legalize the dissemination of birth-control information.

The bill which would have allowed a premium on silver used to buy this country's surplus agricultural products.

An unemployment census measure which would have employed approximately 100,000 men.

Lynchings-1934
Legislation Relating to.

4739

CELEBRATE FAILURE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Following the announcement that the United States Congress had adjourned without any action on the Anti-Lynching bill, the white people of Texas celebrated the occasion with one of its popular pastimes—LYNCHING A NEGRO.

Argus
6-29-30
St Louis Mo

We are told that much boldness accompanied the action of the mob. It was broad open daytime. The members of the mob worked coolly and with much definitness. A Negro, Sonny Griggs, was in the custody of "the law." Through some previous arrangement, these officers suddenly found themselves in the midst of what they called a mob of about one hundred and fifty people who put the rope about Griggs' neck and then began their dirty work. Their victim was dragged from the garage quickly swung up a limb, his body being pierced with seventeen bullets. Not being satisfied with this procedure, about an hour later the mob cut the body from the tree, tied it to the back of an automobile and proceeded to further celebrate by dragging the lifeless image through the town accompanied with hurrahs and hallelujahs.

The celebration was enlivened by women and children who witnessed this scene of brutality. Children were seen hopping about in fiendish glee as they gazed upon the most inhuman tragedy perpetrated upon mankind. The reaction was as though it was a celebration of some sort of holiday festival.

In the meanwhile, we presume that John N. Garner, Vice President of the United States, who hailed from the lone star state was informed of the celebration and that he merely gave another puff on his cigar or primed his pipe, thereby acknowledging his part in the lynching.

Mr. Garner, as will be remembered, is the presiding officer of the senate by virtue of his office as Vice President of the United States. It is he who holds the "whip hand" in legislative matters of the senate. With his support and that of Senator Joseph Robinson of Arkansas, who is the senate floor leader, the Anti-lynching bill would have gone over in sweepstake fashion.

Walter White, Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in speaking of the failure of the Anti-Lynching bill during the seventy-third congress said that those senators who failed to support the measure undoubtedly favored lynching in their state. We understand that Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States, said that he favored the Anti-Lynching bill; so well and so good for him. But the Vice President, John N. Garner of Texas, evidently wants the people of the United States to keep up their record in the barbaric practice of lynching; so much for John Garner.

In the meanwhile, down at Manchester, Tennessee, another celebration was "pulled" when a mob seized a Negro and took him about fifteen miles into the woods and lynched him because he had "hit" a drunken white man. This lynching, we assume, was in response to the attitude of the two Tennessee senators on the Anti-Lynching bill. Be it known that Senator Kenneth D. McKeller of Memphis was the man who objected to the unanimous consent of the senate when the bill had a chance of becoming a law. Thus we can see the caliber of the men who are elected to the highest law making bodies of our land. The best we can say for them is they have little knowledge of the principle upon which this government is founded, or they are too ignorant and prejudiced to support their oath of office.

Oklahoma City, Okla.
NEWS

JUN 28 1934

ANTI-LYNCH LAW DRIVE REOPENED

Ameringer Tells Negroes That Cause of Real Trouble Is Economic

More friendly relations between Negro and white working men was urged in an address before the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People convention this morning by Oscar Ameringer, Oklahoma City, editor of The American Guardian.

Although Mr. Ameringer discussed the general subject of Negroes, asserting their rights on voting in elections, he said "the real trouble now is economic."

"If the Negro worker stumbles the white workers stumble also and both must suffer from common economic difficulties," he said.

Must Drop Suspicions

He pointed out that dropping of suspicions now existing between the two classes of workers will do more to help bring both out of their difficulties than anything else.

Mr. Ameringer, who directed the fight in Oklahoma many years ago against the "grandfather clause," which prevented Negroes from voting, declared today that he was glad for the work he had done in this fight.

The convention is expected to take immediate action to remedy a condition existing in Wagoner County where Negroes are not allowed to vote because of activities of election officials.

Texas Case Sought

The Rev. John Whitmore, Wagoner pastor, asked the convention to bring the county case before the national organization and press it for a test case.

L. W. Washington, El Paso, Texas, told of the fight in Texas the past eight years in an effort to obtain equal voting rights for the Negro.

Discussion this afternoon was to center around the anti-lynching law, with Walter White, New York City, discussing provisions of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, and Charles H. Houston, Washington, D. C., discussing the right of Negroes to serve on juries.

The convention is expected to open a new drive to get the anti-lynching law passed in the next session of congress.

Progress Claimed

The association is credited with stimulating the present day enlightened attitude on lynching, pointing out that when it started its work in 1909 it was not possible to get a prominent person, even in the north, to make a public speech against lynching. Today, in the south, no important publication, educator, churchman, clubwoman or leader in any field can be found who will not condemn lynching, association leaders said.

They also point out that many of the witnesses who appeared before the congress and urged passage of the bill were white southerners.

To Discuss AAA

Charges that the AAA (Agricultural Adjustment Administration) and NRA (National Recovery Administration), two of the most important phases of the New Deal, have not improved the lot of Negro workers, will be made at a mass meeting tonight by John P. Davis, Washington, executive secretary on a joint committee on national recovery.

He will point out the manner in which Negroes "were left to the mercies of the very men who heretofore had charged exorbitant interest and held the mortgage on their fertile farm lands."

Another speaker at the mass meeting in Calvary Baptist Church at 8 p. m. will be Oscar L. Chapman, assistant secretary of the department of interior, who will speak on, "What Colored People May Expect from the New Deal."

300 Delegates Here

More than 300 delegates are here from most sections of the country, but visitors have swelled the crowd to nearly 1000.

White persons were urged to aid the Negroes in their attempts to advance in an address at the opening session last night by Miss Mary White Ovington, white treasurer of the national organization.

A telegram from President Roosevelt congratulating the Negroes on their work of the past 60 years and convention was read along with messages from leaders from various parts of the nation.

NEWARK, N. J.
STAR EAGLE

JUN 30 1934

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

To the Editor of the Star-Eagle:

Sir: Will you permit me to place before your readers the critical situation regarding the Costigan-Wagner bill to give authority for federal aid to States in suppressing lynching? Organizations with a total membership of more than forty million have indorsed the bill and are actively supporting it. President Roosevelt has publicly declared his wish for a vote. Impartial polls of the Senate and the House reveal an overwhelming majority for the bill.

But a very small bloc of senators is determined to keep the bill from being voted on.

We Americans wax indignant whenever lynchings occur, but many of us promptly go back to sleep when no lynchings are occurring. At least fourteen lynchings have been prevented since the Costigan-Wagner bill was introduced because of fear that such lynchings would speed enactment of the Costigan-Wagner bill. An aroused public opinion can insure enactment of this very needed legislation.

W. W.

MUNCIE, IND.
EVE. PRESS

JUN 28 1934

SOUTHERNERS OPPOSE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Within the last comparatively few days a Negro was lynched in the South for association with a white girl. The girl was arrested, but not lynched. If such association was a capital offense for the Negro, why not also for the white woman?

And the other day another Negro was also brutally murdered by a mob of chivalrous white Southern "gentlemen" because he struck a white man who had attended a colored dance without invitation. Horrible atrocities were committed by the outraged southerners upon the bodies of both victims.

And yet the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill failed passage in the Congress due to the opposition of sterling southern representatives and senators. The President favored the bill but the southerners, who now control the Congress for all practical purposes, did not.

The measure, had it become law, would have made southern mobsters and peace officers think a bit before lynching was perpetrated. In the first place, United States district courts and not local courts, would have jurisdiction in lynching cases when it was demonstrated that local officers and courts had failed to act to punish the lynchers. And the peace officers who failed to give necessary protection to a prisoner would have been subjected to imprisonment for terms of not less than five nor more than 25 years.

To impress upon each community its responsibility to prevent mob violence, the bill provided that any county in which a lynching might occur would have to give from [illegible],000 to $10,000 to the family of the victim. This also would apply in case the mob's victim were seriously injured even though he were not killed. And the suits for recovery of damages for injuries also would be in the federal and not in the local courts.

A just measure and one that had wide support among northern congressmen, but it was not even permitted to reach a vote by the gallant southerners.

FORT WORTH, TEX.
MORNING STAR TELEGRAM
JUL 2 1934

Anti-Lynching Laws.

THE DALLAS TIMES-HERALD, among other Texas newspapers, sees in the recent lynching of a negro at Kirbyville a renewal of the urge for act of Congress in the direction of a federal anti-lynching law. The Times-Herald remarks that it is unthinkable for the Federal Government to "invade local communities to prevent mob action" but goes on to say that enforcement of a federal anti-lynching law through prosecution of the officials for not having done their duty in opposing mob violence is perfectly permissible.

A very nice distinction, indeed, that of denying the right to prevent while granting the privilege to prosecute and punish.

If a mob were to lynch a prisoner and the officers of the law were made defendants in a federal prosecution, what would the prosecution use for testimony? How many changes of venue would it require to obtain an impartial trial? If a mob influence is sufficient to provoke mere nominal resistance at the county jail, what likelihood would there be of securing conviction of the quiescent officers? The history of mobs is a community loaded with knowledge of names and faces of participants and no testimony available on official investigations. How much less so would be a federal law made applicable to the punishment of involved officials?

When a community turns mob it takes its voting strength with it. Law enforcement officers need votes. There is the fatal weakness in all mob activities. Nothing short of a federal law automatically vacating all offices culpable and forever disfranchising the officials in every instance of a lynching is the only practical method in sight for creating a counter-irritant to community prejudice—and such a law would prove to be unconstitutional more ways than Ogden Mills declares the NRA so to be.

It is a strange spectacle—that of confirmed State's Rights advocates seeking to grant federal rights in the counties of a State's Rights state for the prosecution of a law enforcement official who chose to sacrifice a prisoner rather than to fire upon his friends, neighbors and—supporters. That, we venture to suggest, would be such a peculiar law that it would prove to be a temptation to would-be lynchers rather than a deterrent to any degree.

Lynching should have no place in Civilization but human nature is the prevailing influence. Fighting inconsistency with a weapon of greater inconsistency will save the lives of few subjects for that community frenzy which produces a lynching.

2-29-34

REPORTERS HALT JIM CROW AT THE LYNCH HEARING

Afro-American

WASHINGTON. — During the hearing on the anti-lynch bill members of the Senate press gallery, spurred on by their superintendent, William Donaldson, white, were attempting to devise some means of excluding members of the colored press from occupying the press tables.

Before Senator Frederick Van Nuys, chairman of the committee, called the hearing to order, Donaldson approached representatives of the colored press, seated at one of the two tables arranged for press service, and told them that the tables were for members of the press gallery and no others.

Reporters Refuse to Move.

After an AFRO reporter had told him that unless another table was provided for those not holding gallery cards, the tables for gallery press men would have to be occupied by all press men.

There are no colored press representatives holding membership in the press gallery, and there were several white press members present who did not belong to the press gallery either, but nothing was said to them about moving.

The final decision of Donaldson was, "You may stay here until the gallery members come, but if they do not fill up these seats you may remain."

White Reporters Move.

There were four white and four colored reporters at the table when the argument started. Without creating any disturbance, the white reporters moved from the table.

A white woman reporter for the Daily Worker, hearing the controversy, came over and sat among the colored representatives, causing white press men to make the remark, "Isn't it a shame for that pretty girl to be sitting among those n——s?"

Gets Jim Crow Table.

At the afternoon session, Donaldson had a table placed in the room for the use of colored press men. When the colored reporters refused to occupy it, Senator Van Nuys's attention was called to it.

What was said by him could not be learned, but the colored reporters remained at the original table.

Van Nuys Denies Participation.

At the close of the meeting, the reporter from the Daily Worker spoke to Senator Van Nuys about the matter. Senator Van Nuys denied that the white reporter had spoken to him about it.

The young woman called his attention to the fact that white reporters, non-members of the press gallery, attend the hearings and were at this one and that nothing was said to them.

Van Nuys promised to take the matter up with the commttee and to "see that the colored reporters weer accommodated."

COLUMBUS, O.
CITIZEN
AUG 23 1934

A LYNCHING A WEEK

FROM Jan. 1 to June 1, there were two lynchings in the United States. Since June 1, there have been 12 lynchings.

Prior to June 1, the Wagner-Costigan federal anti-lynching bill was a live issue in Congress. It provided drastic federal punishment of lynchers and local officers who fail to resist lynch mobs, and assessed heavy fines against the communities in which lynchings occur. Apparently this threat of federal interference was a strong deterrent to lynching in the first five months of the year.

This threat was removed about June 1 when the Wagner-Costigan bill was pigeonholed. Since that date, mob murders have proceeded at the rate of more than one a week. In none of the instances have lynchers been punished, nor is it likely that any will be punished.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has appealed to President Roosevelt to insist at the opening of the next congressional session upon passage of federal anti-lynching legislation.

"The parade of bold mob murders," says the association, is proof that "the states are unwilling or unable to check lynching and that the only method left is the invocation of the power of the federal government."

At the next session of Congress, the president should give to the Wagner-Costigan bill more than his tacit approval.

AKRON, O.
TIMES PRESS
AUG 22 19

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Lynchings-1934
Legislation Relating to.

4740

The Costigan-Wagner Bill-Whose Weapon?

Daily Worker

WHAT is the purpose of the present maneuvers in the U. S. Senate around the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill? What happened the first day of the hearing on this bill, reported to have the support of the government? Negro witnesses at the hearing were forcibly ejected from the Senate restaurant when they attempted to exercise their constitutional rights to eat in a public restaurant!

2-23-34

Lynching dramatizes the brutal oppression of the Negro people under American democracy. Lynching is an expression of the whole system of social and national suppression of the Negro people. The government supports jim-crowism and discrimination. It ejects Negroes from the Senate Restaurant, as it ejected Negroes a few weeks ago from the House Restaurant. It gives the stamp of approval to discrimination, proving once more its role as the chief instrument of the oppressors of the Negro masses.

It is in this government that the Negro masses are urged to have faith by the reformist leaders! It is before this government that Walter White, Charles H. Houston and other leaders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People crawled in abject servility, warning it of the rising mass fight of Negro and white toilers against lynching, warning of the increasing difficulties with which they are beset, by reason of the government's jim-crow policies, in mobilizing the Negro masses behind the fascist and war policies of the Roosevelt "New Deal." These gentlemen abjectly complained to their imperialist masters of the efforts "to convince the American Negro that his hope of justice under the present form of government was useless." Walter White declared before the Senate sub-committee "It is for this Committee and for the Congress either to demonstrate that this hope is not a futile one or else to give weight to those who contend that such a hope is futile."

What is the purpose of the reformist leadership of the N.A.A.C.P. in sponsoring this illusionary hope of justice and fair play for the Negro masses under capitalism without struggle? What is their aim in putting forward the reformist Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill at this moment? Senator Costigan inadvertently lets the cat out of the bag in the following statement on the San Jose (Calif.) double lynching:

"Late last November a tidal wave of sentiment and indignation swept across America when Governor Rolph of California publicly defended inaction by himself and other peace officers in that State. In a flash our people's wrath, visioning the cumulative horror of two generations of such slaughter, spread from sea to sea."

Not by accident did Senator Costigan fail to mention that this seething mass indignation against the growing fascist lynch terror had preceded the San Jose lynching of two white men, and had thundered its protests against the hideous lynching of George Armwood, Negro worker, in Maryland, and against the legal lynching by that State of the innocent Negro farm-hand, Euel Lee. Not by accident did Senator Costigan cover up the role of the Communist Party and the revolutionary mass organizations in mobilizing tens of thousands of white and Negro toilers in indignant protest against the lynch wave, and for a militant, united front fight against the lynchers.

* * *

IS THE Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill a sincere measure against lynching? Is it not murder to lynch a Negro? Then, why is the bill silent on the death penalty, which is exacted for all other forms of murder not committed by the State itself and its agents? Will its provision for a fine of $10,000 against counties in which a lynching occurs stop lynching? The statutes of the State of West Virginia have such a provision. Yet the families of Negroes lynched in that State never have been able to collect the provided indemnity. But even this provision in the Costigan-Wagner bill the reformists are now willing to drop:

"Arthur Garfield Hayes and Walter White agreed that it would be better to change that section of the bill than to risk rejection of the entire measure."

Thus the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, already silent on the death penalty for lynchers, is to be further castrated to make it completely acceptable to the lynchers!

But there is a more sinister purpose behind the bill, in addition to its aim to wreck the mass movement against lynching by confining it to legalistic channels harmless to the lynchers. The bill provides a weapon for the lynchers for the physical suppression of the mass movement by its definition of "mobs," which it defines as a gathering of "three or more persons." It offers a new weapon to employers and the courts for the smashing of the strike struggles of white and Negro workers. Under this definition, the bill would be used to legalize the policy of the imperialists of smashing anti-lynching demonstrations, of breaking down the growing unity of Negro and white workers in joint struggle against their oppressors.

Is there a bill that really seeks to root out lynching? Yes, the Bill Against Lynching and for Civil Rights for the Negro People, sponsored by the League of Struggle for Negro Rights. This bill was taken to Washington by the historic Scottsboro march. It demands the death penalty for lynchers. It seeks to wipe out the breeding ground of lynching in the present social ostracism, jim-crowism, discrimination and economic robbery of the Negro toilers. But even this bill would be ineffective unless the toiling masses and all elements opposed to lynching were rallied around it, to force its enforcement.

Answer the maneuvers of the ruling class and their reformist agents by sharpening the mass fight against lynching! Demand the passage and enforcement of the L.S.N.R. Bill! No faith in the capitalist government, the instrument of the lynchers! Build the militant mass fight under the leadership of the Communist Party and the revolutionary mass organizations against the lynchers and their government as the only means of effectively combatting the growing fascist lynch terror!

Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union
March 18, 1934

Anti-Lynching Parley Slated

Open Meeting Will Be Held in Church Building.

Members of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching are expecting a large attendance of members and others who are interested at their open meeting, scheduled to take place at 3 P. M. tomorrow, in the Taliaferro Memorial Building of St. John's Episcopal Church, Market and Church Streets, this city.

Mrs. William P. Cornell, chairman of the Florida Council, will preside over the meeting, and the Rt. Rev. Frank A. Juhan D. D., Episcopal bishop of Florida and chairman of the State Inter-Racial Commission, will pronounce the invocation and express his endorsement of the aims and program of the association.

The chief speaker will be Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive director of the association, who comes to Jacksonville from her office in Atlanta to meet with the Florida women in their consideration of the subject. Mrs. Cornell urges men as well as women to attend this meeting and yesterday issued a special invitation to the ministers of the city to join in the program which will be definitely outlined at tomorrow's open meeting About 17,000 women are already alligned with this association and a goal of 17,000 more women in 1934 is a part of the program for the year, Mrs. Cornell said.

The Florida Council of the Association will meet with the chairman and Mrs. Ames in St. John's Community House, 325 Market Street, at 10:30 A. M. and a luncheon will be served for the executve group in the same building at 1 P. M.

Huntsville, Ala., Times
March 13, 1934

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL APPROVED

Women's Missionary Council Urges Methodist Societies Indorse It

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., March 1 (AP)—The support of the Women's Missionary Council of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, has been given the Costigan-Wagner anti-lyinching bill, now before Congress.

At the final session of the council's annual meeting, the body urged missionary societies throughout the denomination to join in asking indorsement of the Costigan-Wagner bill.

The council expressed opposition to compulsory military training in state-supported schools. It gave its approval to the Tennessee Valley Authority's program to improve life of rural families.

As a means of improving race relations, delegates were requested to investigate primary laws in the various states to determine if white primaries were being held at the expense of negroes.

The council urged members of the missionaries societies to support the NRA through buying from firms that are members.

Mrs. Hugh Steele of Nashville, Tenn., was one of the new members at large named to the council's governing body. Members reelected included Miss Daisy Davis of Atlanta; Mrs. R. L. Hodby of Union Springs, Ala.; Miss Louise Young and Miss Mabel K. Howell both of Nashville; and Mrs. Harwell Wilson of Winter Haven, Fla.

Murfreesboro, Tenn., News-Journal
March 17, 1934

TEXAN ATTACKS ANTI-LYNCH BILL

Declares It Would Result In Bitter Resentment Among Citizens

WASHINGTON. — Sumners, Texas Democrat and chairman of the house judiciary committee, attacked the Costigan-LaFollette anti-lynch bill in a hearing by the senate judiciary subcommittee.

The proposed federal law provides a penalty of five years imprisonment and $10,000 for local officials convicted of negligence in apprehending and prosecuting lynchers. Sumner in attacking the bill said it would "operate directly against the interest of those it seeks to protect."

"There has been a tremendous development of sentiment in the South against the custom of lynching. They feel it's their job to stop this thing which is a disgrace to their section.

"With the federal government stepping in, there will be a tendency of these people to shirk the responsibility and let Uncle Som do it. And a United States marshal going into a community to arrest officials would, in my opinion, stir a resentment which would be reflected in the jury box, when these people were tried."

The bill was attacked after William H. Thompson, a druggist of Princess Anne, Maryland, had appeared before the sub-committee and denied he was a lyncher. He had been identified as part of the mob which lynched George Armwood, a negro last October.

Anti-Lynch Bill Is Indorsed By Methodist Women's Body

Council Also Protests Compulsory Military Training in State-Supported Schools.

Constitution
3-13-34
Atlanta Ga.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., March 12.—(AP)—Indorsement of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, now pending in congress, and protests against compulsory military training in state-supported schools today were voted by the twenty-fourth annual session of the women's missionary council of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in its final session.

The resolution on lynching set forth that in the past [illegible] years, "3,781 persons have met death at the hands of cruel lynchers and more appalling still only 12 of those guilty of participating in these mobs have been convicted."

Weakness of local courts in dealing with mobs, was criticized in the resolution declaring "their purely local character gives little hope of delivering us from the terrible situation of mob violence and outlawry in which we find ourselves."

Missionary societies throughout the denomination were asked to join in asking support of the anti-lynching bill.

The opposition to the compulsory military training in universities and other colleges was addressed to the general conference which meets in Jackson, Miss., in April, asking that that body of the denomination take similar action.

The council also asked delegates to check the primary laws in the various states to determine if white primaries were being held at the expense of the negroes, as a means to improve race relations.

The Tennessee Valley Authority's program for improving life of rural families was indorsed by the council which also voted to place a social worker in the interdenominational committee.

Members of the missionary societies were urged to support the NRA through making their purchases from firms that are members and products produced by member manufacturers.

Two new members at large to the council's governing body were elected and eight members renamed.

They are:

New members, Mrs. W. B. Landrum, of Fort Worth, Texas, and Mrs. Hugh Steele, of Nashville.

Members re-elected, Miss Daisy Davis, of Atlanta; Miss Mabel K. Howell, of Nashville; Mrs. R. L. Hodby, of Union Spring, Ala.; Mrs. Henry P. Owens, of Kansas City, Mo.; Miss Louise Young, of Nashville; Mrs. A. B. Smith, of Stone, Ky., and Mrs. Harwell Wilson, of Winter Haven, Florida.

The list of officers who will be submitted with the 10 members at large to the general conference in Jackson, Miss., are Mrs. J. W. Perry, Chattanooga, president; Mrs. J. W. Mills, of Beaumont, Texas, vice president; Mrs. F. S. Parker, Nashville, recording secretary; Mrs. Ina Davis Fulton, Nashville, treasurer; Mrs. Helen B. Bourne, Athens, Ala., secretary of education and promotion; Miss Estelle Haskins, of Nashville, secretary of publications; Miss Constance Rumbough, of Nashville, secretary of children's work; Mrs. W. A. Newell, Greensboro, N. C., superintendent bureau of Christian social relations; Mrs. Nat Rollins, Abelene, Texas, calendar clerk; Mrs. J. W. Downs, Nashville, secretary of home missions; Miss Sallie Lou Kennison, secretary of foreign missions.

The convention will meet in St. Louis, Mo., in 1935.

Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union
March 15, 1934

Anti-Lynching Group Called

Session to Be Held Monday in Church Building.

Mrs. William P. Cornell, chairman of the Florida Council of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, announced through her office yesterday that she has called an open meeting of the Florida Council, at 3 P. M., Monday, in the Taliaferro Memorial Building of St. John's Episcopal Church, Market and Church Streets, to hear Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, of Atlanta.

Mrs. Ames is the executive director of the association and she comes to Jacksonville to meet with the Florida Council in a business session on the morning of March 19. Practically all members of the council, according to Mrs. Cornell, have signified their intention of attending this annual meeting. The extension of the program of the anti-lynching group will be discussed and plans made to inform and interest more of the men and women of the State in the effort to eradicate lynching, it was stated.

The open meeting is called for all members of the association and for all who wish to know more of its program.

The following women are members of the State Council:

Jacksonville, Mrs. William P. Cornell, chairman; Mrs. T. H. Crawford, Mrs. Walter S. Jones, Mrs. I. L. Kaplan, Mrs. M. M. Lander, Mrs. Malcolm McClelland, Mrs. Josephine K. Maner, Mrs. John L. Oldham, Mrs. J. D. Russell Mrs. E. L. Vodermark, Mrs. Ralph E. Wendt, Mrs. Brooke White, Mrs. Edward Pfaff and Miss Grace Dalloz; Lakeland, Mrs. T. C. Banks; Mineola, Mrs. I. O. Woodley; Ocala, Mrs. G. J. Rousseau; Orlando, Mrs. Edna Giles Fuller.

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
March 16, 1934

HOUSE INSISTS ON ONLY 10 PER CENT PAY RESTORATION

Vote to Annul Veteran Benefit Compromise Looms During Day

WASHINGTON, March 16.—(AP)—Nearing another vote on the controversial veterans' allowances, the house Friday insisted that government employes be given back only 10 per cent of the 15 per cent pay cut instead of the full amount proposed by the senate.

Representative Connery (Democrat, Massachusetts) announced he would attempt to have the entire question of veterans' and federal employe benefits reopened for upward revision—an action calculated to result in certain veto.

When the house takes up what ordinarily would be the routine matter of sending the big independent offices bill, with its veteran and federal salary amendments, to a conference with the senate, Connery plans to put in a motion to have the chamber recede from its compromises.

Should a majority go along with him, the work of the house in finally agreeing to slash $90,000,000 from the senate amendments might go for naught.

Trouble for the compromises also brewed in the senate, should the house and senate conferees get the bill and agree upon the reduction. Although there were many signs that an agreement could be worked out that President Roosevelt would accept, the senate authors of the original increases said they would fight.

The senate was in recess today, putting over until Monday, action on the bill to guarantee the principal of $2,000,000,000 in home loan bonds.

Two days overdue in its expectations of passing the Bankhead cotton production control bill, the house hoped to get the veterans' matter out of the way quickly enough today for a final vote on the plan.

Capitol committee hearings drew considerable interest during the morning. An anti-lynching bill was up before a senate group. Others on that side plunged into air mail, labor union and Philippine independence matters.

Robert Fechner, director of the Civil Conservation Corps, was called before a house military subcommittee to tell why specifications for CCC purchases, some of them shaped by the Army, were alleged drawn in such a way that some manufacturers could not bid.

JAMAICA, N. Y.
LONG ISLAND PRESS

MAR 1 2 1934

Anti-Lynching Bill Supported by Whites

"More than 80 per cent of the witnesses at the recent hearing of the Dunnigan-Wagner (anti-lynching) bill in Washington, most of them from below the Mason and Dixon line, were white people who had come to the capital at their own expense," declared Walter F. White, author, speaking on "The Need of the N. A. A. C. P. in Fighting Lynching" at a meeting of the Jamaica Unit of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples," held in the Allen A. M. E. Church, Washington and South streets, yesterday afternoon.

"The white student element in the South," continued White, "would rather surrender state rights to the federal government than to the mob."

Other speakers were the Rev. C. L. Roberts of Holy Trinity Baptist Church, the Rev. Edward Ernest Tyler of the Allen A. M. E. Church, the Rev. Clifford Miller of the Christ Community Church and Dr. Charles M. Reid, local head of the N. A. A. C. P. George W. A. Murray presided.

N. Y. SUN

MAR 1 9 193

Black Workmen

A College Dean Considers Their Fate Under the Wagner Bill.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir!* In the recent hearings before the Senate Labor Committee it was disclosed that the leading industrialists of the country had united in bitter fight against the labor set-up in the Wagner bill. In substance, this measure gives organized labor collective and exclusive control in issues arising between labor and capital. It seems but fair, on the face of it, that as joint factors in the industrial equation labor and capital should exercise its own autonomy, neither falling under control of the other. The function of the Government as umpire is to safeguard the just prerogative of both.

The Negro enters this equation, as he does all others, as a disturbing and upsetting factor. The Negro is a ten-fingered laboring man. Comparatively few of the race are able to earn a living outside of the ranks of manual toil. Logic aligns him with labor. Every advantage wrested from unwilling capital redounds to the benefit of all who fall within this category. Labor should present a solid phalanx in its struggle with solidified capital. There should be no schism in the ranks. But, alas, race prejudice frustrates every equation in which it enters, and compels its victims to follow good sense and practical judgment instead of the rigid formulas of logic.

Labor organizations will not allow the Negro to unite with the general body of workmen on self-respecting terms. The issue between white and black labor is the severest waging in the industrial world. The leading labor unions will not admit Negroes to membership. Those which do so do so in a left-handed way which effectively deprives the black workman of the full fruits of unionism. Dr. Abram Harris in his important book on the black workman has fully disclosed this intolerant practice and purpose on the part of white labor organizations. If for reasons of prudence the black workmen should unite with their white coworkers to gain their contention, what guaranty is there that the victorious white workman would not turn on his black brother and utterly rend him?

The American Federation of Labor, which typifies the spirit and aim of labor organizations, is frankly exclusive in its policy. It operates mainly on the higher level of the crafts and skilled labor, from whose ranks the Negro is rigorously excluded. Left-handed allowance is made for him only in the cruder forms of unskilled work which requires bone breaking manual toil. Even in these humbler spheres, the arrogant white workman is disposed to crowd out his black rival where the demand becomes competitive.

Left to the tender mercies of labor organizations, the Negro today would have no field or function in the industrial world above the level of manual and menial toil with inferior grades of work and pay. The precarious place which he now holds is due to the insistence of capital against the incessant protest of labor. The black workman has been used as a pliant tool by capital to offset the extravagant and unjust demands of labor organizations. The Negro need not be too critical of the motive since he becomes the beneficiary. In every issue between capital and labor the Negro's bread has been buttered on the side of capital.

The Negro therefore cannot look with indifference upon the purpose of the Wagner bill to put the fate of workmen in industry in the hands of labor organizations which, up to now, have treated him so inequitably and so ruthlessly. His only hope lies in his reliance on the Government as arbiter to see to it that he is given a square deal under the New Deal. Unless the Negro's rights and interests are specifically safeguarded in the enabling law his fate in industry will be easy to foretell.

KELLY MILLER,
Howard University.

Washington, D. C., March 17.

Lynchings-1934
Legislation Relating to.

4741

LAFAYETTE, IND.
JOURNAL & COURIER

MAR 16 1934

FEDERAL ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

A federal anti-lynching bill, sponsored by Senator Edward P. Costigan of Colorado and Senator Robert Wagner of New York, is now being considered by the senate judiciary committee. Under the bill a penalty of five years' imprisonment or a $5,000 fine or both might be placed upon any state officer who failed to exercise diligence in protecting those in his charge from mob assaults, or who failed to do his part in apprehending and convicting lynchers.

Federal courts would be given the jurisdiction to try cases of this nature when the state instrumentalities of justice gave ample evidence of their inability or unwillingness to enforce their own law. Any county in which a person was put to death by a mob would forfeit $1,000, which might be recovered in a suit in the name of the United States for the use of the family or dependent parents of the victim, if any, and otherwise for the use of the United States.

The bill has the backing of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People, and grows out of the nearly 200 per cent rise in the number of lynchings which took place last year.

ANTI-LYNCH BILL FACES A BATTLE

Times

Democratic Leaders See Scant Hope Although Judiciary Committee Approved It.

4-10-34

PERMITS FEDERAL SUITS

New York

Costigan-Wagner Act Transfers Responsibility From State—Carries $10,000 Forfeit.

WASHINGTON, April 9 (AP).—An under-the-surface battle to keep the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill from coming to a vote at this session was started today after the measure had been approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Friends of the legislation were confident it would pass the Senate, if a vote could be reached, but Democratic leaders held out little hope for its consideration.

Primarily the bill would transfer the responsibility for investigating and presocuting lynch mobs from State to Federal authorities. Severe penalties would be provided if peace officers turned their prisoners over to lynchers.

Chairman Ashurst of the Judiciary Committee said the bill was approved without a record vote, but there were "two or three votes against it." It was understood some members voted to report it, reserving the right to oppose the measure on the floor.

The committee made few important changes in the bill. However, it did write into it a more specific definition of a mob, describing it as "an assemblage of three or more people, acting in concert to kill or injure any person in the custody of the peace officer."

Senator Van Nuys, Democrat, of Indiana, chairman of the subcommittee which handled the measure, expressed the opinion it would make peace officers do their duty in protecting prisoners and would awaken public opinion.

Introduced by Senator Wagner, Democrat, of New York, and Costigan, Democrat, of Colorado, the bill would permit Federal attorneys to bring suit in Federal court against counties in which lynchings took place.

Counties found guilty would be required to forfeit from $2,000 to $10,000 to the family of the victim. If two counties were involved this would be divided. The bill originally set the forfeit at $10,000.

The Federal attorney also could bring action against any local peace officer who released his prisoner to a mob, and if found guilty the officer would be subject to a jail sentence of not less than five years. The same penalty would apply to members of the mob.

Senate Body Approves Anti-Lynching Bill

Constitution
4-10-34

WASHINGTON, April 9.—(AP)—The senate judiciary committee today approved the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, but democratic leaders held out little hope for floor consideration this session.

Ga.

Chairman Ashurst, in announcing the committee action, said there were "two or three votes against it" but approval was given by voice vote.

The bill levies fines up to $10,000 on counties where lynchings occur, makes it a felony for federal officials to give up a prisoner to a mob, and provides penalties of $5,000 and imprisonment for five years of those guilty of lynching.

New York Times

APR 10 193

ANTI-LYNCH BILL FACES A BATTLE

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ROCHESTER, N. Y.
TIMES UNION

APR 9 1934

Negroes Oppose Wagner Bill.

Editor of The Call—Senator Robert F. Wagner has introduced in the senate a bill that is destined to have a far reaching effect upon the working conditions of all wage earners. It is to be known as, "The Labor Dispute Bill or Act." The bill favors labor organizations, but does not benefit employes who replace striking employes.

The four major transportation brotherhoods, engineers, conductors, fireman and trainmen, prohibit Negroes from joining their ranks. A number of the unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor bar Negroes from membership. Many prevarications are practiced by the labor movements to withhold from Negroes the benefits usually accorded union workers. Negroes who belong to unions are frequently prohibited from working by white unionists.

If the Wagner bill passes in its present form the power and influence of the labor movements will advance to such an extent as to increase the practice of restriction of Negroes from labor organizations.

Furthermore, if the practice of barring Negroes from membership continues after the passing of this bill, they will be forced to work as strike-breakers when strikes are called by unions that bar them. As strike-breakers they have no rights under the proposed Wagner labor bill. Therefore, the Negroes position will be made worse. This bill at present is in the senate committee on education and labor of which Senator David I. Walsh is chairman.

We are soliciting the aid and assistance of every Negro and friend of the Negro in opposing this bill and in so doing protect the Negro workers. Be it remembered that Negroes constitute one-eighth of the workers in this country and form one-tenth of the population.

JOHN A. HUGGS, JR.

Journal and Guide

POSTPONE VOTE ON DEPRIEST CAFE RESOLUTION; SENATE TO GET ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

BULLETIN

CHICAGO—(ANP)—Oscar DePriest won an overwhelming victory Tuesday in the primary election for renomination to Congress.

Special to Journal and Guide

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A vote on the DePriest resolution authorizing an investigation of the authority exercised by the House Accounts Committee in operating the House restaurant and refusing service to colored persons has been postponed to April 22.

At the request of Representative Oscar De Priest, who introduced the resolution, House leaders reached that decision, Speaker Henry T. Rainey told reporters last Monday.

Mr. DePriest as in Chicago for the Illinois primaries which were held Tuesday.

"Because he introduced that resolution," said Speaker Rainey, "we won't call it up before he gets back."

Senate Takes Action

Meanwhile, last Saturday the Senate acted to exempt its restaurants from the House amendment bill for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1935.

The House amendment provided that no part of any appropriation contained in the bill shall be used for the operation to any restaurant.

The amendment was offered as a legislative trick to prevent Representative De Priest from offering a similar amendment affecting only the House restaurant.

The Senate was expected to strike out the House amendment in its entirety. Instead it added an amendment excepting the Senate kitchens and restaurants from the House prohibition of the use of any part of the legislative appropriation for the operation of any restaurant.

"Teeth" Are Taken Out of Wagner-Costigan Bill

WASHINGTON, D. C., (Special)—The Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill, sponsored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, will be reported to the Senate at an early date.

The Senate Judiicary Committee last Monday ordered a favorable report on the measure after one or two minor changes were made in the bill.

In announcing the action of the committee, Senator Henry F. Ashurst, Democrat, of Arizo, committee chairman, said the favorable report was ordered by a viva voce vote, but there were two or three votes against it.

Bill Is Amended

The committee amended the bill so as to make more specific the definition of a mob, describing it as an assemblage of "three or more persons acting in concert without authority of law, to kill or injure any person in the custody of any peace officer, with the purpose or consequence of depriving such person of due process of law or the equal protection of the laws."

Senator Frederick Van Nuys, Democrat, of Indiana, chairman of the subcommittee which held hearings on the bill [illegible] new definition to mean that the proposed [illegible] be ineffective in a case [illegible] a mob seizes its victim before his arrest by local officers.

Teeth Taken Out

Although the change in the definition seems to take all the "teeth" out of the proposed measure, Senator Van Nuys said he understood it is satisfactory to groups seeking Federal anti-lynching legislation.

Under another change the Federal courts would be empowered to fix a penalty of not less than $2,000 or more than $10,000 against the county in which a lynching occurs for the benefit of the dependents of the victim of a mob. As the bill was originally drafted the forfeit to be paid to the family of the victim was set at $10,000.

In voting to report the bill, it is understood that several members of the committee reserved the right to oppose it on the floor.

Severe Penalties.

Primarily the bill as reported would transfer the responsibility for investigation and prosecuting lynch mobs from state to Federal authorities. Severe penalties would be provided if peace officers turned their prisoners over to lynchers.

Chairman Ashurst, of the judiciary committee, said the bill was approved without a record vote, but there were "two or three votes against it." It was understood some members voted to report it, preserving the right to oppose the measure on the floor.

Senator Van Nuys (D., Ind.), chairman of the subcommittee which handled the bill, expressed the opinion it would make peace officers do their duty in protecting prisoners and would awaken public opinion.

Introduced by Senator Wagner (D., Ind.), and Costigan (D., Colo.) the bill would permit Federal attorneys to bring suit in a Federal court against counties in which lynchings took place.

The Federal attorney also could bring action against any local peace officer who released his prisoner to a mob, and if found guilty the officer would be subject to a jail sentence of not less than five years. The same penalty would apply to members of the mob.

The bill levies fines up to $10,000 on counties where lynchings occur, makes it a felony for Federal officials to give up a prisoner to a mob, and provides penalties of $5,000 and imprisonment for five years of those guilty of lynching.

The bill defines a "mob or riotous assemblage" as a group composed of "three or more persons acting in concert, without authority of law, for the purpose of depriving any person of his life, or doing him physical injury."

Where a person was seized in one county and lynched in another both counties would be held jointly liable to pay the $10,000 penalty.

ALLENTOWN, PA
CALL
APR 16 1934

SEEKING EFFECTIVE LAW AGAINST LYNCHING

Efforts to secure a national anti-lynching law are not likely to progress very far because there is a pretty large bloc in both houses of congress from states which wants no interference with the traditional right to lynch a nigger if their people see fit.

Thirty-six states have laws against lynching but it is usually very difficult to get any officials to make great efforts to enforce them. Very often it is worth a man's political future to do anything about it after there has been a lynching bee in the community.

In the states which have anti-lynching laws there are three principal types, according to the American Legislators' association which has compiled the statistics. These types are: 1—To punish members of a lynching mob or sheriffs who permit a prisoner to be lynched; (2) to make cities or counties liable for reparation in money for damages suffered at the hands of a mob; (3) to order a special term of court to try the prisoner promptly, thereby removing the excuse that the regular process of law is too slow.

Arkansas is the only state that has the preventive measure of the third type. In 20 states prisoners may be sent to another county if there is danger of mob violence.

The punishment usually provided where lynching is a "crime" is life imprisonment or death. Three of the states impose a lesser penalty in prison sentences. Kansas, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia make it as much a crime to be party to a lynching as to perform the act.

Statutes imposing liabilities on cities or counties for permitting mob violence are more common. The maximum amounts which the local governments may be compelled to pay range from $5,000 in Illinois, New Jersey, Ohio and West Virginia, to $10,000 in Pennsylvania. Three states do not prescribe a maximum amount. In South Carolina, the smallest damage which may be awarded is $2,000.

Nine states have statutes which require the removal of sheriffs who permit their prisoners to be lynched. The officers may be reinstated if they can show that every reasonable precaution was taken to prevent the lynching.

A model lynching law, drawn up recently, contains more stringent provisions. Among these are: (1) removal of the offending sheriff and peace officers by the governor, and making them civilly liable to the victim or his estate for damages; (2) substituting information for indictment and allowing trustworthy hearsay evidence; (3) providing for effective military interference upon order of the governor, without request by local authorities.

WASHINGTON, D. C
POST
APR 10 193

Anti-Lynching Bill Approved

Leaders, However, Say Floor Consideration Is Unlikely.

(Associated Press.)

The Senate Judiciary Committee yesterday approved the Costigan-Wagner antilynching bill, but Democratic leaders held out little hope for floor consideration this session.

Chairman Ashurst, in announcing the committee action, said there were "two or three votes against it," but approval was given by voice vote.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
Star
APR 14 1934

FEDERAL ANTILYNCH LAW.

AN UNDER-THE-SURFACE movement is reported in Washington to prevent a vote on the Costigan-Wagner bill, providing for Federal action to curb lynching. That sentiment, of course, is limited to the type of Federal enactments proposed rather than as an indirect attempt to condone mob vengeance. No normal citizen can indorse lynching so long as law enforcement agencies continue to function. Infliction of capital punishment by mobs reflects on our boasted civilization and contributes to general disrespect for law.

There is some reason for opposition to features of the Senate bill. It is questionable whether it would awaken public opinion or spur peace officers to a more desperate defense of their prisoners, as sponsors of the measure contend. The bill is aimed to avoid local prejudice and animosity by transferring responsibility for investigation and prosecution of mob members from state to Federal authorities. That theory is sound in principle, although its practical application might not produce the desired results. The Senate bill also would permit Federal attorneys to bring suit against counties in which lynchings occurred. Counties found guilty in Federal Court would be compelled to pay from $2,000 to $10,000 to the family of the victim.

The surest cure for lynching, of course, is swift and certain justice. Growing public resentment over delays, technicalities, compromise verdicts that always are inadequate, appeals, paroles and pardons occasionally finds expression in an outburst of mob violence when some particularly atrocious crime has been committed. An example was provided in the California lynching of two men who had brutally murdered a kidnap victim. That blot on the state's record might have been spared if the enraged public had been assured that speedy execution by legal methods would be the fate of the slayers. Not even a drastic Federal law will curb lynching so long as defective law enforcement machinery makes a mockery of justice by coddling criminals. Recognition of that fact, rather than any effort to condone lynching, is chiefly responsible for passive resistance to the proposed bill.

Lynchings - 1934
Legislation Relating to.

4742

Batesburg, S. C., News
March 1, 1934

ANTI-LYNCHING LEGISLATION

We are being told almost daily by some newspapers that an anti-lynching bill is likely to be passed in congress, which would put large fines on counties in which lynchings occur and would hold sheriffs of counties responsible, in large measure, for lynching within their jurisdictions.

Any law that will punish all the people of a county for the act of a few men is a bad law. We have in South Carolina a law that gives to the family of a mob victim $2,000 punative damages from the county in which the crime is committed. That law is not just.

Just what constitutes a "lynching" would be a fine point the courts would have to decide, were a federal law against this crime enacted. How many men must participate in a killing to make it a lynching?

If a few hoodlums put some enemy on the spot, would that be a lynching? If it were sodecided, some of the larger eastern and northern cities would be in for a bad day under a federal anti-lynching law. The brethren in the north who have been advocating such a law as a slap at the south might consider this point.

If a gang of irresponsibles kill a man in Lexington county, would that be a lynching? And were it ruled by the courts to be such, why should the thirty-odd thousand law-abiding citizens of Lexington county be punished for the act of the irresponsibles?

A gang wants to lynch some one in an adjoining county, but do not want to make the citizens of that county suffer for their act, so they step over in the next county or the next state to do their lynching.

There simply is not and can not be any justice in an anti-lynching law, and the people of every state, after they see just how it works, will become so disgusted with it they will not lend their aid to its enforcement and it will become as dead as the eighteenth amendment.

There is only one way open to abolish lynchings. Enforce the laws against murder, rape, and the other horrible crimes that excite men to the lynching pitch.

This dream of making all the people of a county or a state pay a fine for a lynching is silly and ridiculous. What would a mob care about a ten thousand dollar fine or a million dollar fine when they are seeing red and are out to revenge some loved one who has been brutally raped or murdered by a fiend?

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.
GAZETTE

MAR 5 1934

FURNISHING ARGUMENTS FOR AN ANTI-LYNCHING LAW.

The police of Tampa, Fla., arrested a Negro on suspicion of a crime against a girl, but cleared him on further investigation. While he was still at the city jail, and late at night a county constable came with a warrant charging the prisoner with chicken stealing and took him away. An hour later the constable returned and told the police that a band of men had seized and killed his prisoner.

After spending three weeks on an investigation of the case, a Grand Jury reported that it had not been able to find evidence of mob violence or lynching in the killing of the prisoner.

That report becomes public just at the time when a federal anti-lynching bill is pending in the United States Senate. In the South we feel that lynching is a problem we can best, and should, deal with for ourselves. But what are we going to answer when other sections say to us: Isn't that an example of the way the South has for years been dealing with the lynching problem?

FORT DODGE, IA.
MESSENGER & CHRONICLE

MAR 7 1934

NATIONAL LAW AGAINST LYNCHING

The senate judiciary committee opened hearings on February 20 on the Costigan-Wagner bill to make lynching a federal offense. The bill would subject to a fine up to $5,000 or imprisonment up to five years, or both, any state or local official who fails to make "all diligent efforts" to protect the individual in his charge from a mob. The same penalty is provided for such an official lax in his duties of arresting, jailing, or prosecuting any member of such a mob. The bill also provides for federal trial of members of a lynching mob under certain conditions, and for a fine of $10,000 to a county in which a person is killed by a mob.

To pass the Costigan-Wagner bill seems advisable. Although the number of lynchings show, on the whole, a marked decline in the last decade, the year 1933 shows an increase.

Twelve states—Alabama, California, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia—have made lynching or mob violence a statutory crime, but Alabama has been the only state which has punished any of the lynchers, and lynchings have occurred in nine of the twelve states.

Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia impose a maximum penalty of death on all members of a mob which kills a person. In Georgia, the person causing the death of a mob victim is liable to death, and others engaged in the lynching may be imprisoned for from one to twenty years. California has the same provisions.

Kentucky imposes a penalty of death or life imprisonment to all members of a mob, while Indiana has the same penalty for active participants in a lynching and imprisonment of from one to twenty-one years for inactive participants. Life imprisonment is the maximum penalty for lynching in Kansas.

Eleven states—Connecticut, Kansas, Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and West Virginia—make the city or county in which a lynching occurs liable for damages in amounts ranging from $1,000 in Nebraska to $10,000 in Pennsylvania.

Nine states — Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, New Jersey, South Carolina and Tennessee—provide for the removal of the peace officers in charge when a person in custody is taken by a mob and lynched. But these removals differ in each state, just as do the penalties to mobs.

Southern senators killed the Dyer lynching bill after it was passed in the house in 1922. They and many who are vigorously opposed to lynching as a form of justice pointed out that most states had anti-lynching laws of one sort or another and that these laws did not prevent lynchings. This is true. But statistics show that the number of lynchings have decreased greatly since there has been some form of legislation against them.

Federal legislation always has been known to wield more power in the minds of would-be offenders than state legislation.

Anti-Lynching Bill Flayed As Mob-Violence Stimulant

Advertiser
3-17-34
Montgomery, Ala.

WASHINGTON, March 16.—(AP)—The Costigan-Lafollette anti-lynch bill was characterized by Chairman Summers of the House judiciary committee today as a measure which would retard rather than promote the suppression of mob violence.

Summers, Texas Democrat, attacked the bill in a hearing by the Senate judiciary committee, after William H. Thompson, [illegible] druggist of Princess Anne, Md., had appeared before the group and [illegible] he was a lyncher.

Thompson was named at a previous hearing by William Preston Lane, Jr., Maryland attorney general, as one of eight man who Lane said had been identified as part of the mob which took George Armwood, negro, from jail in Pricess Anne last October and lynched him.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.
GAZETTE

FEB 28 1934

A $10,000 LYNCHING FINE ON A COUNTY.

The Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill, which a Senate sub-committee has under consideration, provides for a federal fine of $10,000 on a county where a lynching occurs. It is not without interest to note that this would be a swing-back to the ancient conception of justice which made a community collectively responsible for wrong done by any of its members as individuals.

Did the authors of this measure, when they proposed to assess a flat fine of $10,000 on any county failing to keep a lynching mob from accomplishing its purpose, give any thought to the fact that the 3,072 counties in the United States vary widely in size, population and taxable wealth? There are counties in Arkansas where the payment of a $10,000 penalty would exhaust the revenues of the county government for an entire year, not merely at the present time but when economic conditions are normal. Other states in the South and elsewhere have counties of which the same thing would be true.

A lynching occurred last year in Los Angeles county, Cal., which has a population of more than 2,200,000. Lynchings have occurred, and may occur again, in counties having less than 10,000 population. What shadow of justice could there be in demanding of every county a fine of the same amount? What would be a negligible penalty for some would be a crushing exaction for many.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
March 13, 1934

LYNCHING IS DENOUNCED BY W. M. S.

Resolution Cites 3,781 Slain By Mobs With Only 12 Convicted

NEW OFFENSIVE ON LIQUOR IS FAVORED

Methodist Women Okeh Child Labor Ban And Urge Peace Moves

Resolutions scoring lynching and endorsing the Costigan-Wagner bill were adopted at the closing sessions Monday of the six-day meeting of the Woman's Missionary Council, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at the First Methodist Church. Approximately 1,000 women, including delegates and visitors from all over the South, attended the council meeting.

The Woman's Missionary Society of the North Alabama Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, will convene at 9:45 a.m. Tuesday at the First Methodist Church for a two-day meeting. Some 500 delegates are expected.

3,781 Persons Lunched

In the resolutions concerning lynchings, the council said that "lynching records show that for a period of 44 years (1889-1933) 3,781 persons have met death at the hands of cruel lynchers and, more appalling still, only 12 of those guilty of participation in these mobs have been convicted."

The resolutions went on to say that "the weakness of the local courts in dealing with mobs, as shown in the above figures, inheres in their purely local character giving little hope for delivering us from the terrible situation of mob violence and outlawry in which we find ourselves.

Federal Responsibility

"Therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Woman's Missionary Council in annual session at Birmingham, Ala., March 7-12, 1934, do hereby give our endorsement to the Costigan-Wagner bill which seeks to stimulate local state governments to perform their duty in protecting life and property and which gives to the federal government the responsibility of apprehending and convicting persons guilty of mob murder in cases where local government has failed to perform its duty."

A memorial to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, which will meet in Jackson, Miss., in May, was adopted asking that the church go on record as among those taking an "anti-military" stand. Military training at colleges was referred to specifically.

On the question of race relations, the council voted to have its members make a study of the so-called "white primaries" in their own communities in the various states to determine whether the Negroes entitled to vote were being barred.

Support Of Peace

The council voted to continue to express, through individual members' letters to senators and representatives, its support of measures in the interest of world peace.

Plans were favored for a "new offensive" against the liquor traffic, with emphasis on an "alcohol education" campaign emphasizing "modern" scientific studies.

Members of the council voted to support NRA by patronizing institutions cooperating with the recovery administration.

Cooperation also was offered to the Tennessee Valley Authority, decision having been made to furnish a social worker in connection with the inter-denominational church undertakings in the valley.

Favor Child Labor Amendment

The council also went on record as favoring the proposed child labor amendment.

Members of the council were asked to make an "intensive study of the conditions of domestic employment," with a view to arriving at "Christian standards" of mutual understanding and responsibility between employer and employe.

The council also voted to make a study to have information on hand in the event old age pensions and reemployment insurance legislation is introduced in Congress. Rural development, with such facilities as circulating libraries, also was endorsed, the council voting to increase its work along this line.

Week-Of-Prayer Offering

It was decided that the annual week-of-prayer offering would go to Sue Bennett College, London, Ky., and Holding Institute, in the home missions field, and to Brazil for equipping the Council Institute and the Congo for homes and furnishings of missionaries, in the foreign missions field.

Selection of the "officiary" was completed Monday, with the naming of several secretaries at the morning session and the 10 members-at-large during the afternoon. These, together with the officers chosen Sunday, will be confirmed at the meeting of the general board of missions of the church in Nashville the latter part of April.

Chosen Monday morning were Miss Estelle Haskin, Nashville, secretary of publications; Miss Constance Rumbough, Nashville, secretary of children's work; Mrs. W. A. Newell, Greensboro, N. C., superintendent of the bureau of Christian social relations; Mrs. Nat Rollins, Abilene, Tex., calendar clerk; Mrs. J. W. Downs, Nashville, secretary of home missions, and Miss Sallie Lou MacKinnon, Nashville, secretary of foreign missions, all reelected.

Members-At-Large Chosen

Members-at-large: Miss Daisy Davies, Atlanta; Miss Mabel K. Howell, Nashville; Mrs. R. L. Hobby, Union Springs, Ala.; Mrs. Henry S. Owen, Kansas City; Miss Louise Young, Nashville; Mrs. A. B. Smith, Stone, Ky.; Mrs. Harwell Wilson, Winter Haven, Fla., and Miss Margaret Young, Nashville, all reelected, and Mrs. W. B. Landrum, Fort Worth, and Mrs. Hugh R. Steele, Nashville, new members.

Those chosen Sunday were Mrs. J. W. Terry, Chattanooga, reelected president; Mrs. J. W. Mills, Beaumont, Tex., new vice president; Mrs. F. S. Parker, Nashville, recording secretary, reelected; Mrs. Ina Davis Fulton, Nashville, treasurer, reelected, and Mrs. Helen B. Bourne, Athens, Ala., new education and promotion secretary.

The council pledged more than $800,000 for its activities during the coming year at the Saturday sessions, and discussions of disbursements was completed Monday morning.

Prior to adjournment, the council resolved itself into three groups, the Woman's Board of Foreign Missions, the Woman's Board of Missions and the Woman's Home Missions Society, which held brief meetings.

The meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society of the North Alabama Conference, which will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, will be featured by the quadrennial election of officers. The first ballot will be taken at 11 a.m. Tuesday, with the voting to continue until all officers have been chosen. Mrs. J. W. Downs, Nashville, secretary of home missions for the general council, and Miss Bess Sargent, of Scarritt College, Nashville, will be the speakers. Mrs. Isaac Morris, Birmingham, conference president, will have charge

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CLEVELAND, O
PRESS
MAR 5 1934

URGE ANTI-LYNCH LAW

Members of Cleveland Association Hold Third Meeting Tonight

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will hold the third meeting of a series at 8 p. m. tonight at the Triedstone Baptist Church, E. 38th street and Scovill avenue. The Rev. D. Ormand Walker, pastor of St. James' A. M. E. Church, will speak on "The Need for a Militant Organization for the protection of Negro Rights."

New efforts to secure the passage of anti-lynching laws will be launched through various religious and social organizations.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.
DEMOCRAT & CHRONICLE
MAR 8 1934

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Philadelphia Public Ledger

The latest anti-lynching bill to be introduced in Congress is encountering the same opposition as its numerous predecessors. The first measure of this kind was introduced nearly 70 years ago. In 1922 the Dyer Bill was passed by the House but rejected by the Senate.

The Senate debate on the Wagner-Costigan Bill has now centered on the provision to penalize counties where lynchings occur with a $10,000 fine. The sum would be paid to the relatives of the victim. The practicability of this provision has been questioned as well as the constitutionality of this proposed law with its extension of the federal police power.

Until last year there had been a progressive decrease in the number of lynchings, which was attributed to the education of public opinion and the greater determination of officials to do their duty in protecting prisoners. The fact that there were three times as many lynchings in 1933 as in 1932 may not mean a permanent recrudescence of this evil. Revival of the demand for federal legislation was to be expected. But the forces formerly at work to reduce the number of cases of mob violence may again assert themselves and prevent a repetition of the reproach of 1933.

Methodist Women Vote Against Lynching And For Pacifism, NRA

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., March 12—(AP)—Endorsement of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, now pending in Congress, and protests against compulsory military training in State supported schools today were voted by the 24th annual session of the Woman's Missionary Council of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in its final session.

The resolution on lynching set forth that in the past 44 years, "3,781 persons have met death at the hands of cruel lynchers and more appalling still only 12 of those guilty of participating in these mobs have been convicted."

Weakness of local courts in dealing with mobs was criticized in the resolution declaring "their purely local character gives little hope of delivering us from the terrible situation of mob violence and outlawry in which we find ourselves."

Missionary societies throughout the denomination were asked to join in asking support of the anti-lynching bill.

The opposition to the compulsory military training in universities and other colleges was addressed to the general conference which meets in Jackson, Miss., in April, asking that that body of the denomination take similar action.

The council also asked delegates to check the primary laws in the various states to determine if white primaries were being held at the expense of the negroes as a means to improve race relations.

The Tennessee Valley Authority's program for improving life of rural families was endorsed by the council, which also voted to place a social worker in the interdenominational committee.

Members of the missionary societies were urged to support the NRA through making their purchases from firms that are members and products produced by member manufacturers.

Two new members at large to the council's governing body, were elected and eight members renamed.

They are:

New members: Mrs. W. B. Landrum, of Fort Worth, Texas, and Mrs. Hugh Steele, of Nashville.

Members reelected: Miss Daisy Davis, of Atlanta; Miss Mabel K. Howell, of Nashville; Mrs. R. L. Hobdy, of Union Springs, Ala.; Mrs. Henry P. Owen, of Kansas City, Mo.; Miss Louise Young, of Nashville; Mrs. A. B. Smith, of Stone, Ky., and Mrs. Harwell Wilson, of Winter Haven, Fla.

The list of officers who will be submitted with the 10 members-at-large to the general conference in Jackson, Miss., are: Mrs. J. W. Terry, Chattanooga, president; Mrs. J. W. Mills, of Beaumont, Texas, vice president; Mrs. F. S. Parker, Nashville, recording secretary; Mrs. Ina Davis Fulton, Nashville, treasurer; Mrs. Helen B. Bourne, Athens, Ala., secretary of education and promotion; Miss Estelle Haskins, of Nashville, secretary of publications; Miss Constance Rumbough, of Nashville, secretary of children's work; Mrs. W. A. Newell, Greensboro, N. C., superintendent bureau of Christian social relations; Mrs. Nat Rollins, Abilene, Texas, calendar clerk; Mrs. J. W. Downs, Nashville, secretary of home missions; Miss Sallie Lou Kennison, secretary of foreign missions.

Advertiser 3-13-34
Montgomery Ala

Lynchings-1934
Legislation Relating to.

4743

UNIONTOWN, PA.
HERALD
FEB 19 1934

Proposed Anti-Lynching Bill

The Senate Judiciary committee is to open hearings February 20 on the Costigan-Wagner bill to make lynching a federal offense.

The Costigan-Wagner bill subjects to a fine up to $5,000 or imprisonment up to five years, or both, any state or local official who is charged with the protection of an individual and who fails to make "all diligent efforts" to protect him from injury at the hands of a mob. A similar penalty is provided for any state or local official lax in his duties of arresting, jailing, or prosecuting any member of such mob. Also, the federal court in the judicial district where mob violence occurs shall have jurisdiction to try, under the laws of the state concerned, any member of a lynching mob, but only if (1) state officers are lax in prosecution, or (2) jurors obtainable for a state court are opposed to punishment for the lynching.

Any county in which a person is killed by a mob shall be fined $10,000. This fine is to be levied by the federal government, which is given the right to collect by property levy, mandamus, or other appropriate measures. In case the victim is seized in one county and put to death in another, each county is liable for the fine. If the victim has dependents, the fine is to go to them. Finally, if an alien guaranteed protection by treaty is injured in any state against the laws of that state, the crime becomes a federal offense.

The Costigan-Wagner bill is almost identical with the Dyer anti-lynching bill which was introduced in Congress in 1921 and in succeeding sessions. The Dyer bill was passed by the House in January, 1922, by vote of 231 to 119. It was killed in the Senate by a filibuster of southern senators opposed to federal intervention in what they considered a state problem. There was considerable doubt of the constitutionality of the measure even on the part of many of its supporters. The Costigan-Wagner bill, like the Dyer bill, attempts to meet the constitutional issue by rehearsing the constitutional guarantees of equal protection of the laws to all persons.

Many persons who abhor lynching doubt also the effectiveness of a federal anti-lynching statute. They point out that most states now have anti-lynching laws of one sort or another, and that these laws do not prevent lynchings. Specifically, if jurors in a state court will not vote to convict members of a lynching mob, jurors in a federal court of the judicial district concerned are likely to take the same attitude. Advocates of a federal law point out that state laws may have at least minimized lynching, and they believe that a federal law would be even more of a deterrent.

In the last decade, the number of lynchings showed, on the whole, a marked decline, with a record low in 1932. The year 1933, however, like 1930, showed an increase. Contrary to general belief, rape is not the chief cause of lynchings. In the 40-year period from 1889 to 1929, only one-sixth of the persons lynched were accused of rape; and if to this accusation be added attempted rape, the proportion is still less than one-fourth. More than one-third were accused of murder. It is interesting to note also that the proportion of lynchings has been considerably lower in the so-called Black Belt, where negroes comprise more than one-half the population, than in counties with less than one-fourth negro population.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.
DEMOCRAT
FEB 26 1934

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL.

Anyone who expresses opposition to a federal anti-lynching law risks the charge that he, or she, condones mobs, favors taking from certain types of criminals their constitutional right to a fair trial.

Such a measure is in the spotlight again. The Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill has been discussed in open hearings by the judiciary committee of the Senate. It provides that a fine of $5,000, or imprisonment up to five years, or both, may be inflicted upon any state or local official who fails to make "all diligent efforts" to protect an individual whose life is threatened by a mob. Just what would be considered a "diligent effort" as a court saw it?

A similar penalty would be levied against such officials who failed to arrest, jail and prosecute a member of a mob. In the event of failure of prosecution the federal court in the district in which the lynching occurred, or in case jurors obtainable for a state court are opposed to punishment for lynching. That latter provision is outright humorous. How many men decent enough to be accepted on such a jury would admit being opposed to punishing lynchers?

The bill also provides that any county in which a person is killed by a mob shall be fined $10,000. If the victim is seized in one county and hanged, shot or burned to death in another, both counties would be fined. Under that provision should a man be hanged by 20 or 30 hoodlums, 50,000 or 75,000 law-abiding citizens would be penalized $20,000. Turn that over in your mind.

We repeat, for the nth time, lynching is a social disease which can be cured only by the progress of civilization. Federal law would be little if any more effective than state legislation. From 1885 to 1897 there were only two years in which less than 100 persons were the victims of mobs. From the latter year to date, with slight variations, the trend has been well below 100. We are making progress.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
Star
FEB 28 1934

Seek to Make Advocacy of Lynching U. S. Offense

A resolution asking legislation making the advocacy of lynching, as well as lynching itself, a Federal offense is expected to be adopted at a meeting in Phillips Memorial Temple, West and Drake streets, at 7:45 o'clock tomorrow night. The meeting will be held to discuss the Scottsboro trial of nine Negro boys. Thirty churches and several organizations are participating. Speakers will include the Rev. C. Bledsoe, assistant pastor of the Phillips Temple; Ernest E. Owens, attorney; Wilbur Wilson and Joseph Zimmerman. Heywood Patterson branch of the International Labor Defense and the district committee of the Unemployed Council are sponsoring the meeting.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
NEWS

FEB 21 1934

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

LET THE states do it, is the cry of opponents of the Federa anti-lynching bill now under congressional hearings. Th answer is that the states either cannot or will not protec citizens from lynch mobs. This is not a matter of argument o opinion. It is a fact—a brutal fact established by unhindere lynchings in every year of our national history.

The fundamental reason for the existence of an America Government and Constitution is the protection of the rights o citizens. The right to life is basic. Any government whic deliberately fails to protect that right has sacrificed its excus for being.

This issue is neither sectional nor racial. In one of the worst recent cases the state was California and the victims wer white. Of the 5053 known lynchings since 1882, whites have been the victims 1450 times. Ninety-four women have been lynched.

Rape is not the customary cause of lynching. The record shows that only 17 per cent of the victims were even accused of that crime by the lynchers themselves—and many of that 17 per cent were innocent.

Regarding the recent Tuscaloosa case, the investigator of the Southern Commission for the Study of Lynchings, reported: "One of the four mob victims was undoubtedly innocent, two others probably so, and the fourth possibly so."

In that case, as so often happens, local officials did not try to protect the victims and did not try to punish the culprits. Of course in the San Jose case, Gov. Rolph publicly encouraged lynching. On the other hand when Gov. Ritchie sent Maryland state troops to arrest alleged lynchers, the mob drove out the troops.

These are the type of hard facts behind the statement of President Roosevelt that lynching is one of the crimes which "have threatened our security." And, the President added:

"These violations of ethics and these violations of law call on the strong arm of government for their immediate suppression; they call also on the country for an aroused public opinion."

RALEIGH, N. C.

Times

FEB 21 1934

ELDERS LURED YOUNG GENERATION TO CONTEMPT FOR CONSTITUTION

A Senate committee hearing on a newly proposed Federal "Anti-Lynching" bill went off on a tangent when it developed that a quartette of sisters black and white—three white and one black—had been refused service at the Senate restaurant, allegedly on the point of the race of the one and the social predilections of the others. Senator Copeland of New York, who faces a fight to bounce him from his seat as inimical to the Administration, lifted both front legs in braying a protest against this violation of the Civil War Amendments to the Constitution.

But when the committee got down to the serious business in hand, another violation of the Constitution was openly advocated from a strange quarter when Miss Elizabeth Yates Webb, daughter of Federal Circuit Judge E. Yates Webb and a niece of former Governor O. Max Gardner, a professor of history at Vassar, deposed and assumed to speak the sentiments of the "younger generation of Southerners" as gathered by social welfare work in colleges in ten Southern States. Miss Webb's testimony is quoted in part as follows:

> We have been taught in the South that State's rights mean more than Federal rights, and for that reason some of the people in the South who really want something done about lynching are shaking their heads a little about the Federal government doing it.
>
> I would rather see the Federal government usurp some of the authority of the States than for mobs to do it. I think it unfair to say that this law is aimed at Southern States. I view it as an aid to Southern States. There are thousands of us who care so much that we are glad to have help from any source.

Unfortunately enough, Miss Webb probably reflects the sentiment of all the high-brow and near-high-brow younger generation of the South. They give not a hang for the Constitution. In fact, they view it as something to be revered by dotards and obeyed only by fools. But we must remember that the "younger generation" was led in this respect by members of an older generation, some of the most active of whom lived and led in the South but did not let that fact deter them from befouling the one great essential that in the past, in war and peace, held the South itself in devotion to a principle that few indeed are now so poor as to honor.

HOUSTON, TEX.
PRESS

FEB 22 1934

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

LET the states do it, is the cry of opponents of the federal anti-lynching bill now under congressional hearings. The answer is that the states either can not or will not protect citizens from lynch mobs. This is not a matter of argument or opinion. It is a fact—a brutal fact established by unhindered lynchings in every year of our national history.

The fundamental reason for the existence of an American government and constitution is the protection of the rights of citizens. The right to life is basic. Any government which deliberately fails to protect that right has sacrificed its excuse for being.

This issue is neither sectional nor racial. In one of the worst recent cases, the state was California, and the victims were white. Of the 5053 known lynchings since 1882, whites have been the victims 1450 times. Ninety-four women have been lynched.

Rape is not the customary cause of lynchings. The record shows that only 17 per cent of the victims were even accused of that crime by the lynchers themselves—and many of that 17 per cent were innocent.

These are the type of hard facts behind the statement of President Roosevelt that lynching is one of the crimes which "have threatened our security." And, the president added:

"These violations of ethics and these violations of law call on the strong arm of government for their immediate suppression; they call also on the country for an aroused public opinion."

Lynchings-1934
Legislation Relating to.

4744

MOB VIOLENCE IS DENOUNCED AT SENATE HEARING

Afro-American 2-24-34

Proponents of Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynch Bill Testify.

Baltimore, Md.

ONLY COWARDS IN MOB—WHITE

Twelve Governors in Favor of Measure.

[AFRO Bureau]

WASHINGTON — With the declaration that "there is no greater evil than mob violence," Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York, co-author of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynch bill, made an impassioned plea for the passage of the measure as testimony before the sub-committee of the Senate Judiciary Committee was begun, here Tuesday.

"Of all the strides in American progress," he declared, "none has moved with such rapidity and made such a great gain as that of mob law."

Speaking through the microphone of the N.B.C. network, Senator Wagner gave a brief resume of the causes that induced him and his colleague, Senator Costigan, to draft the measure.

91 Lynchings

Flaying the states for not intervening to prevent lynchings, the Senator pointed out that since 1928 there have been 91 lynchings, with 28 of them occurring in 1933, and 17 within the last five months.

"If this bill is passed," he said, "I am confident that it will awaken the state to its obligation.

Punish Offenders

"The power to enforce includes the power to punish, and if the Congress and the Supreme Court have the power to enforce the law, then they should likewise punish offenders of the law. There is no greater evil than mob violence," he concluded, urging the necessity of arousing sufficient public opinion to back the law if it is passed, and urging the committee to give the bill proper consideration.

Senator Edward P. Costigan, of Colorado, co-author of the bill, opened his testimony with a denunciation of the Rolphsonian policy of condoning lynching. He charged Governor Rolph, of California, with "publicly defending mob law and the glorifying two barbarous lynchings."

Citizenship Undisputed

"In the life-time of many of the people present in this room," he said, "the aggregate number of lynched is 5,550, of which 3,660 were colored persons, and it cannot be denied that their national citizenship is as undisputed as their state citizenship.

"Our government," he declared, "should be one of equal laws and not of tyrannical men."

He pleaded with the committee to "help the people of America to throw the overwhelming weight of public opinion behind a Federal anti-lynching law."

Questions Legality of Measure

Senator McNary admitted to Walter White that he was in doubt as to the constitutionality of the Costigan-Wagner bill, saying:

"I am in doubt as to a law of this nature being upheld by the constitution. If a law of this kind can be held constitutional, it places the court in a novel situation; I should like to be relieved of my doubt because I am in favor of the measure."

Kansas Editor Absent

"A message from William Allen White, white, Kansas editor, stating that he regretted that he could not be present, and urged support of the bill, was read into the record by Senator Van Nuys.

Maryland Attorney-General on Stand

Preston W. Lane, attorney-general, of Maryland, testifying before the anti-lynching committee, Wednesday morning:

Q.—Are you in possession of information of persons who could supply or have supplied evidence of their guilt in mob violence in Maryland?

A.—I am not.

Q.—Would you consider it a privilege to have arms for protection at all times?

A.—Yes.

Lane was cross-examined by Senator Van Nuys.

Lane testified that he would not question the constitutionality of the bill because he had not considered it. Any legislative action to stop lynching would be highly recommended as being highly constitutional, Lane added.

He said he felt that more adequate police protection would add greatly in both the state of Maryland and the United States.

Connelly Testifies

At the Tuesday afternoon session Marc Connelly, playwright, author of "The Green Pastures," and director of the Dramatists' Guild of the Authors' League of America, representing the Writers' League Against Lynching, appeared before the committee in behalf of the bill.

He said that it seemed to him that the states have confessed "a sort of bankruptcy of integrity," and that it is time for the Federal government to see that the states regain their ancient integrity and that in every community every resident is secure in his life.

He stated that he had never been free of the constant threat over the heads of all colored citizens in certain sections of the futility of their lives.

Not Free in Maryland

Miss Elisabeth Gilman, white, of Baltimore, speaking for the Church League for Industrial Democracy, said:

"It is well known that colored persons in Maryland are not entirely free there. I fear," she said, "that there is no really strong anti-lynching sentiment in Maryland."

Lynching "Condoned"

Dr. Broadus Mitchell, white, instructor in political economy at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, testified:

"My state has been in the forefront of state-right advocacy, but when it comes to accepting state responsibility, we are a total loss. A former U.S. Senator and the head of the Baltimore Bar Association openly condoned lynching . . ."

Karl N. Llewellyn, professor of law at Columbia University Law School, took issue with Senator William H. Dietrich, of Illinois, on the question of penalizing counties in which lynchings occur. He told the committee that it is the business of the states to stop lynching and "they will stop it if you pass this bill."

He said he was not concerned with punishing lynchers, but is interested in constantly decreasing lynching.

Tennessee Man Testifies

Albert E. Barnett, professor of literature and history of the Bible at Scarritt College, Nashville, Tenn., who made an investigation of the lynching of Cordie Cheek in Maury County, Tenn., December 15 last, also appeared before the committee in support of the measure.

Objects to Petition

Senator Dietrich took exceptions to a set of resolutions signed by 5,000 voters of Baltimore, in which it was stated that all citizens would be urged to oppose any Senator and Representative who voted against the Costigan-Wagner bill. The resolutions were presented by Father Gillard.

Senator Dietrich asked him whether he thought it was proper to coerce members of the Senate and House to support a measure if within their conscience they thought it was their duty to oppose some section of the bill.

Improper

Father Gillard agreed that it was improper. Senator Frederick Van Nuys, Democrat, of Indiana, chairman of the sub-committee, ordered the resolutions incorporated in the record.

Senator Hamilton F. Kean, Republican, of New Jersey, sat with the sub-committee through the hearings and several times asked questions of witnesses. He has an anti-lynching bill also pending before the judiciary committee.

ANTI-LYNCHING BILLS

Daily Worker 8-16-34

By a Worker Correspondent

NEW ORLEANS, La.—The Pittsburgh Courier is trying to collect money from the Negro people of the State of Louisiana with which to fight for the passage of the Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynch Bill.

From the letter that I have before me, the Pittsburgh Courier has the names and addresses of some 10,000 of the Negro people of this State alone, from which they expect to collect $1 each.

New York,

These people have been misled about the benefits of this bill, for the reason that there are already laws sufficient to cover all cases of lynchings and abductions, and it would help none to have one more law passed. The thing to do is to see that those that are passed are enforced by those that take an oath to enforce them.

N.Y.

It has been proven time and again, times almost without number, that it is impossible to learn who is responsible for lynchings, in any one case, or many. Not only is it that it cannot be learned who is responsible, but it is just as impossible to learn the names of any of the members of those who lynch. In every case that has been "investigated" the verdict of the "investigators" is the same: "Committed by parties unknown." In how many cases in the last year have the authorities been guiltless of participation?

When the people want lynchings to stop they can stop them without an act of Congress that will not amount to anything more than just one more act passed, and they will be able to do it without spending $1 each for something that amounts to nothing. The people themselves can stop lynchings and abductions, semi-legal or otherwise.

G. S. M.

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EDITOR'S NOTE:—While the correspondent is correct in regarding the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill as merely another scrap of paper not really intended to stop lynching, it does not follow that all laws against lynching would necessarily be ineffectual.

The effectiveness of such laws depends upon the aims of those drawing up the proposed laws. Their enforcement depends upon the extent to which mass pressure is exerted upon the lynch courts and officials by the white and Negro toilers and all sincere opponents of lynching, united in joint, militant struggle against the lynch terror and the economic and social system out of which lynching grows and thrives.

The Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill is drawn by members of the ruling class responsible for the persecution and oppression of the Negro people. It is sponsored by such people as the N. A. A. C. P. leadership, whose role as assistant lynchers is glaringly exposed in their attacks on the fight to save the Scottsboro boys, in their betrayal of George Crawford and other framed-up Negro workers. The Pittsburgh Courier is the unofficial mouthpiece of that traitorous leadership. Its editor and publisher, Mr. Vann, is part of the national government which has established and endorsed sub-human wage differentials under the N. R. A. against Negro workers; has jim-crowed Negroes in the House and Senate restaurants at Washington, and is busy "ploughing under" Negro and white poor farmers.

Recent brutal lynchings have aroused widespread mass indignation. The Costigan-Wagner bill is put forward at this period to foster the illusion that the lynch rulers will themselves put an end to the lynch terror by which they maintain their plunder rule over the Negro majorities in the "Black Belt" territories. It is designed to smash the mass fight, organized and led by the Communist Party, against lynching and the economic and social system out of which lynching grows and thrives.

In sharp contrast is the Bill for Negro Rights and the Suppression of Lynching, drawn up by the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, with its clear-cut definition of lynching and mobs and its provision for the death sentence against the lynchers. This definition and provision are both carefully omitted from the Costigan-Wagner Bill, thus leaving the lynch rulers free to use the bill, if passed, against those very forces which are fighting against lynching.

It is not correct that the identity of the lynchers is never known. The League of Struggle for Negro Rights, the International Labor Defense and the Daily Worker have time and again exposed the identity of leaders of lynch mobs, including state and county officials. In the George Armwood lynching on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the I. L. D. and the Daily Worker confronted the county and State authorities with the names of the leaders of the mob which murdered Armwood. As a result of mass protest, several of these leaders were arrested but were immediately released—exonerated by the lynch courts! Governor Ritchie and the county authorities refused to prosecute the known lynchers!

In several other lynchings during the last two years, the leaders of the mob were known, some even admitting their guilt. Yet in every case, as the correspondent points out, the verdict was "death at the hands of parties unknown." On the other hand, the full force of the government is mobilized against the racketeering kidnappers of rich men.

The mass fight of Negro and white toilers and sympathizers is the only force that can stop lynching. But that fight, to be effective, must be directed against the lynch courts and officials, against the whole rotten capitalist system which breeds lynching, mass unemployment, misery, fascist terror and imperialist war.

PRINGFIELD, MASS.
MORNING UNION

OCT 4 1934

PREDICTS BILL ON LYNCHING TO PASS CONGRESS

Rep. Granfield Points to Number of Negroes Given Important Jobs by Administration.

Prediction that the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill will be passed before many weeks of the coming session of Congress was made by Congressman William J. Granfield in a talk last night before 100 members of the Springfield branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in St. John's Church. In closing his address he pointed to the large number of colored people who have been appointed to important positions under the New Deal and asserted that the Administration has done much for the advancement of the colored race and for every racial group.

"Since 1880 there have been 5280 lynchings in the United States, 1400 of them whites and eight of them white women," Congressman Granfield said. "It is frankly a problem for the entire American people. These lynchings are not only disgraceful but have been an object of ridicule of all nations. We guarantee personal safety and trial by due process of the law. The Constitution is supposed to protect the common people. I am in hopes that my party will make that forward step which will diminish and probably abolish lynchings.

"The New Deal put over by the present Administration will bring many of your people into the Democratic party. A large number of your people are holding high places in the Administration. Of 52 employes in the White House 28 are colored and of the five chauffeurs three are colored. Edgar Prior, a clerk who served under President Roosevelt when he was Assistant Secretary of the Navy, was called into the White House clerical staff. Several of the regional project managers are colored and the President appointed a colored professor recorder of deeds in the District of Columbia. Other colored leaders are holding positions as assistant to the FERA administrator and assistants to the Attorney General.

"In practically every department of the Federal Government Negroes are holding high places. In Chicago 114 colored teachers were employed this summer and an equal number of colored nurses were engaged in ERA projects. These are an inspiration to ll young colored men and women and show that their services are in need and in demand. The Administration believes you are entitled to those things in life that you deserve."

Referring to his record in matters of interest to colored people, Congressman Granfield spoke of his friendship with Congressman Oscar DePriest of Chicago. "I was happy to be by his side in his fights, which were fair and just, particularly in the House restaurant controversy. I refused to impeach Judge Lowell in the Crawford extradition case. I knew that Judge Lowell used his own best judgment in the case," he asserted.

George C. Gordon, president of the local branch of the N. A. A. C. P., introduced Congressman Granfield after a short business meeting. The entertainment included selections by the Ambassadors of Harmony.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
INQUIRER-PUBLIC LEDGER

OCT 7 1934

CANDIDATES ASKED FOR LYNCHING STAND

Negroes Throughout Country Seek Support for Measure in Congress

By JOSEPH V. BAKER

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has called upon each of its 385 branches throughout the country to "pledge every Congressman and Senator coming up for election to the support of the Costigan-Wagner Anti-lynching bill," when Congress assembles. The call, which was issued by the national offices in New York through Walter White, secretary, specified that protest meetings against the treatment accorded the bill by the Democratic-controlled Congress during the last session be held in every city and town in which candidates are seeking election.

While the order did not definitely ask that all who voted against the measure in committee be defeated, it did set a new precedent for the powerful organization in calling upon local units to guard against the defeat of the measure. It is thought that the national officers will be active in fighting all candidates who refuse to take a definite stand for the bill much in the same form in which it sought the defeat of Senators who voted for Judge John J. Parker's confirmation. In that case speakers were sent into every State to aid the opponents of the confirmation votes.

In keeping with the New York call for pressure on the lynching bill, Dr. Charles Dorsey, head of the local branch of the organization, has intimated that the Philadelphia branch will join in persuading Negroes to insist upon the pledge for the measure's passage from all Congressional candidates. The Philadelphia protest meetings will, no doubt, have as its main speakers Dr. William Pickens, field secretary of the N. A. A. C. P. Dr. Dorsey said that Dr. Pickens has already been scheduled for the Philadelphia meeting.

Wilson Backs It

In Pennsylvania, William H. Wilson, former Director of Public Safety, who has been nominated for the post left vacant by the retirement of Representative James M. Beck, was the first to pledge activity on behalf of the anti-lynching bill. Immediately upon notification of his selection he wrote the secretary of the national offices that he would "support vigorously with speech and vote any measure designed to curb lynching in the United States." Wilson's offer led the association to call a national campaign for pressure upon all candidates.

When informed that the N. A. A. C. P. had moved to "put on record" every candidate for Congressional office, the candidate for the 2d District seat said:

"I am glad that the N. A. A. C. P. has moved to guarantee some definite stand on a matter so vital as lynching. Any man who wants to help write the laws of this Nation ought to be questioned as to whether he stands for the reckless taking of human life without trial by jury, which is the right of every citizen. If he wavers on so clear-cut a matter as lynch law he is not fit to write any other kind."

De Priest Leads Fight

The coming of the N. A. A. C. P. into the political picture strengthened what is perhaps the most colorful campaign ever waged by Republicans among that group. The State-wide drive was officially opened by Congressman Oscar De Priest and State Athletic Commissioner Robert J. Nelson this week in meetings which were attended by approximately 3000 workers. Both

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NION CITY, N. J.
HUDSON DISPATCH

OCT 16 1934

KEAN TO FIGHT FOR ANTI-LYNCHING LAW

Pointing to the fact that he tried to enact an anti-lynching law in the last session of Congress and pledging to renew his efforts in that direction, U. S. Senator Hamilton Kean asked members and friends of the Colored Chapter of the Independent Voters' League of Hudson County to re-elect him in an address given last night at Lincoln School, Jersey City.

Because of conflicting speaking engagements, J. Dalmus Steele, "Mayor of Harlem" and an assembly candidate in New York, was unable to appear as the featured speaker.

Both Senator Kean and State Senator Warren Barbour hit the sales tax as a means of securing revenue.

Fred M. Conwell, Negro assembly candidate from Hudson County, told his audience, "The Democratic Party is a party of the south and a party of the south is not the party you and I want to represent us."

Other speakers were J. Owen Grundy, candidate for the boulevard commission; Mercer Borrell, Negro assembly candidate in Essex County, and George Eichler, candidate for the assembly in Hudson County.

Wilson Pledges Anti-Lynch Bill Support

Afro-American

PHILADELPHIA—"I not only will support an anti-lynching bill with my vote, but with my voice," summarized William H. Wilson, candidate for representative, at one of the most enthusiastic Republican rallies held this season, at Wesley AME Church, this week.

11-3-34

The meeting was devoted largely to the presentations on statistics and affidavits, in which Mr. Wilson had attempted to draw lines that would prove the difference between his attitude and that of his Democratic opponent on racial issues.

He attempted to show, through affidavits from a young man present, that Mr. Earle had been opposed to hiring even colored domestics, and that such a policy had been followed by his close friends.

The Rev. Mr. Douglass, pastor of the church, called attention to the store of beans donated by members. Senator Salus and Mr. Wilson began a fund of fifty dollars each, to buy meat to help feed unfortunates during the winter.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.
GAZETTE

OCT 28 1934

FLORIDA BIDS FOR A FEDERAL ANTI-LYNCHING LAW.

The press reports of the lynching at Greenwood, Fla., though guarded, told a hideous story. It is bound to stir and shock the whole country.

Won't these horrible lynchings inevitably bring federal action sooner or later?

As things are now the officer responsible for the safe-keeping of a prisoner demanded by a lynching mob can say he was overpowered. A sheriff and his deputies can say they recognized nobody in the crowd. Grand Juries can fail to indict and courts fail to convict.

But if Congress should make lynching a federal crime, the leaders of lynching mobs would face quick and stern accounting. If Department of Justice agents like those who ran down Dillinger, Floyd and other "public enemies" were ordered to bring in the ringleaders of that Greenwood mob, the members of the "Committee of Six" would soon find themselves hauled up. Their identity is bound to be known to hundreds of people. Under pressure of an investigation that meant business the whole story of that night's events would be brought out.

Federal investigation of lynchings and federal arrest and prosecution of lynchers would be revolutionary. But in effect we have already come to the point where we look to federal authority to deal with kidnapers and with those bandits who have won the evil name of public enemies.

Lynchings-1934
Legislation Relating to.

4745

Southern Senators Attempt To Block Anti-Lynching Bill

WASHINGTON, D. C., Mar.—The next step in the campaign to get the Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynching Bill passed is to have the Senate Judiciary Committee report the bill out promptly and favorably for action on the floor of the Senate, the N. A. A. C. P. points out.

All persons and organizations who want the Federal Government to step in and assist in stamping out lynching are urged to write or telegraph all members of the Judiciary Committe, and especially the chairman, urging the committee to vote the bill out promptly and favorably.

Following the sensational hearings February 20 and 21 before the Sub-Committee of the Judiciary Committee, of which Senator Van Nuys is chairman, Mr. Van Nuys announced that the sub-committee would report the bill favorably to the whole committee. If the bill is to come before the Senate at this session of Congress, it must be reported out soon by the whole committee.

The N. A. A. C. P., which is behind the bill, urges correspondents to be sure to write Senator Ashurst, then to pick out the senators on the committee who happen to be from their state and write them, and, if possible, to write every member of the committee.

"It should be remembered," the N. A. A. C. P. statement said, "that all these men are not 'enemies' of this bill and letters should not be written them in an antagonistic spirit. There will be plenty of time for antagonism and pressure later after the individual senators have taken a stand or failed to take a stand on this bill.

Letter Outline

"For the present these letters to the Judiciary Committee should state (1) that lynchings increased 180 per cent. in 1933, from 10 in 1932 to 28 in 1933; (2) that two lynchings took place in January, 1934; and (3) that four white persons were lynched in 1933, indicating that lynching is more than a racial problem; (4) that testimony before the sub-committee, February 20 and 21 showed a complete breakdown in state and local enforcement of law and proved the states and counties helpless to prevent or punish lynching; (5) that you (or your organization) believe the Federal Government must step in and halt lynchings and that you believe the Costigan-Wagner Bill, S. 1978, is the best method for Federal action."

A syndicated daily newspaper column reports that some southern senators are trying to get Senator Van Nuys not to report the bill even out of the sub-committee, but the Indiana senator is firmly convinced the legislation is necessary.

YOUNGSTOWN, O.
VINDICATOR
FEB 24 1934

The Anti-Lynching Bill

The Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill before Congress differs little from the Dyer bill, defeated in the Senate ten years ago after having passed the House by a vote of nearly two to one. Senators from the Southern States argued that lynching was a state problem, and the same argument will be used against the present bill, although federal influence in matters once held to belong strictly to the states has increased vastly in the decade.

The new bill provides a fine of $5,000 or more or imprisonment not longer than five years, or both, for any state or local official charged with the protection of an individual who fails to make diligent effort to protect him from a mob. Officials lax in their duty to arrest, jail or prosecute any member of a lynching mob are subject to similar penalty.

The federal court in whose district mob violence occurs would have jurisdiction to try, under the laws of the state concerned, members of a lynching mob if state officers are lax in their duties or juries are opposed to punishment for lynching.

An important feature of the bill is the fine of $10,000 to be collected from any county in which a person is killed by a mob. A fine is also provided for each county in case a victim is seized in one county and lynched in another.

The fines to be collected from counties raise a question as to whether they would pay and whether a federal law would prove more effective than state laws as punishment and prevention of mob violence. Many years ago following mob violence in Cincinnati, when the courthouse was burned, Ohio turned to county fines which in the light of history proved effectual. Summit County knows from experience with a mob which destroyed much property and burned the city building not so many years after the Cincinnati outbreak.

[redacted]

Anti-Lynching Bill

The latest anti-lynching bill to be introduced in congress is encountering the same opposition as its numerous predecessors. The first measure of this kind was introduced nearly seventy years ago. In 1922 the Dyer bill was passed by the house but rejected by the senate.

The senate debate on the Wagner-Costigan bill has now centered on the provision to penalize counties where lynchings occur with a $10,000 fine. The sum would be paid to the relatives of the victim. The practicability of this provision has been questioned as well as the constitutionality of this proposed law with its extension of the federal police power.

Until last year there had been a progressive decrease in the number of lynchings, which was attributed to the education of public opinion and the greater determination of officials to do their duty in protecting prisoners. The fact that there were three times as many lynchings in 1933 as in 1932 may not mean a permanent recrudescence of this evil. Revival of the demand for federal legislation was to be expected. But the forces formerly at work to reduce the number of cases of mob violence may again assert themselves and prevent a repetition of the reproach of 1933.

[redacted] [redacted]

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL.

Anyone who expresses opposition to a federal anti-lynching law risks the charge that he, or she, condones mobs, favors taking from certain types of criminals their constitutional right to a fair trial.

Such a measure is in the spotlight again. The Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill has been discussed in open hearings by the judiciary committee of the senate. It provides that a fine of $5,000, or imprisonment up to five years, or both, may be inflicted upon any state or local official who fails to make "all diligent efforts" to protect an individual whose life is threatened by a mob. Just what would be considered a "diligent effort" as a court saw it?

A similar penalty would be levied against such officials who failed to arest, jail and prosecute a member of a mob. In the event of failure of prosecution the federal court in the district in which the lynching occurred, or in case jurors obtainable for a state court are opposed to punishment for lynching. That latter provision is outright humorous. How many men decent enough to be accepted on such a jury would admit being opposed to punishing lynchers?

The bill also provides that any county in which a person is killed by a mob shall be fined $10,000. If the victim is seized in one county and hanged, shot or burned to death in another, both counties would be fined. Under that provision should a man be hanged by 20 or 30 hoodlums, 50,000 or 75,000 law-abiding citizens would be penalized $20,000. Turn that over in your mind.

We repeat, for the nth time, lynching is a social disease which can be cured only by the progress of civilization. Federal law would be little if any more effective than state legislation. From 1885 to 1897 there were only two years in which less than 100 persons were the victims of mobs. From the latter year to date, with slight variations, the trend has been well below 100. We are making progress.—Arkansas Democrat.

HAMMOND, IND.
AKE COUNTY TIMES

FEB 22 1934

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Let the states do it, is the cry of opponents of the federal anti-lynching bill now under congressional hearings. The answer is that the states either cannot or will not protect citizens from lynch mobs. This is not a matter of argument or opinion. It is a fact—a brutal fact established by unhindered lynchings in every year of our national history.

The fundamental reason for the existence of an American government and constitution is the protection of the rights of citizens. The right to life is basic. Any government which deliberately fails to protect that right has sacrificed its excuse for being.

This issue is neither sectional nor racial. In one of the worst recent cases the state was California and the victims were white. Of the 5,053 known lynchings since 1882, white have been the victims 1,450 times. Ninety-four women have been lynched.

Rape is not the customary cause of lynching. The record shows that only 17 per cent of the victims were even accused of that crime by the lynchers themselves—and many of that 17 per cent were innocent.

Regarding the recent Tuscaloosa case, the investigator of the southern commission for the study of lynching reported: "One of the four mob victims was undoubtedly innocent, two others probably so, and the fourth possibly so."

In that case, as so often happens, local officials did not try to protect the victims and did not try to punish the culprits. Of course, in the San Jose case, Gov. Rolph publicly encouraged lynching. On the other hand, when Gov. Ritchie sent Maryland state troops to arrest alleged lynchers the move drove out the troops.

These are the type of hard facts behind the statement of President that lynching is one of the crimes which "have threatened our security." And the president added:

"These violations of ethics and these violations of law call on the strong arm of government for their immediate suppression; they call also on the country for an aroused public opinion."

MOBILE, ALA.
Press

MAR 1 1934

Lynching

Another experiment "noble in purpose" but several hundred feet above the cold, hard ground of reality is being discussed in Congress to check the violent passions of men.

This is the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, the product of two distinguished and conscientious liberals. The bill's intent is to give the federal courts jurisdiction over "Judge Lynch," who in recent months has been excessively busy in various parts of the country.

This newspaper abhors lynching for many reasons. The practice is savagery unrestrained. It is anarchy. It threatens the very foundation of government and Christian civilization.

It is because they recognize these things that Senators Wagner and Costigan have introduced their bill. They believe that the power of the federal government will be respected where the laws and courts of the governments and states are not.

We wish that we could think that the two senators are right. Unfortunately, a community in which a lynching has occurred usually loses its head to such an extent that it is unwilling to punish mob leaders or officials who have failed in their duty. The federal courts must, like state courts, rely on local juries. The jurors in a federal court are not limited to one county necessarily, but the jurymen do come from the immediate vicinity.

The federal law, as proposed by Senators Costigan and Wagner, would be strict, but there would still be loopholes. According to the Birmingham News, the "federal courts could try supposed members of a lynching mob only in case jurors obtainable for state courts are opposed to punishment for the lynching." An allowance of this kind, of course, lays the way open for avoiding the aims of the bill. A prospective juryman would hardly declare publicly and officially that he was opposed to the punishment of the members of a lynch mob. Thus, only in the most extreme cases—situations involving what would amount to actual anarchy—would the jurisdiction pass to the federal courts."

All the laws in the world would not stop lynching unless public opinion in a community is sternly opposed to the practice. The objection to the Costigan-Wagner bill is that it probably would not be effective. What is needed is the education of public opinion to the point where lawless elements in the community are made to realize that lynching will not, under any circumstances, be permitted. Our consciences must become keener, rather than our laws stricter.

RENO, NEV.
GAZETTE

FEB 23 1934

ANOTHER ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

AN INTERESTING legislative effort is to be found in the anti-lynching bill now in the hands of a senate committee, the adoption of which is being urged by Senators Costigan of Colorado and Wagner of New York. Instead of making lynching a crime against the government, like most previous anti-lynching measures, it merely extends the jurisdiction of the United States district courts over lynching and mob offenses in instances wherein the states and their subdivisions fail to act, and in all such instances provides that the criminal prosecutions which are instituted by the government shall be conducted under the laws of the state wherein the offense occurred. This extension of the jurisdiction of the federal courts is proposed, according to a declaratory section of the bill, in order to give to all of the country's citizens the "equal protection of the laws" guaranteed to them by the fourteenth amendment.

Two other sections of the bill, however, rest upon a more direct exercise of federal power. Section three provides that if any state or local official responsible for the protection of any person in danger of mob violence fails in performing his duty, or if such officials fail to make prosecution, within thirty days, of mob or lynching offenses, they shall be tried in the federal courts and shall be punished, if found guilty, by a fine of not to exceed five thousand dollars, nor more than five years' imprisonment, or both. The bill also provides that counties in which a lynching occurs shall be liable to the family of the victim in the sum of ten thousand dollars, the collection of which shall be enforced by the federal government. The protective provisions of the measure are extended to aliens as well as citizens. A mob is described as "an assemblage of three or more persons, acting in concert, without authority of law, for the purpose of depriving any person of his life or doing him physical injury." Under this section many racketeers and other offenders, could be brought to trial in the federal courts.

The objections that have been registered heretofore against such legislation are that it proposes another wide extension of federal police powers into the states. At the present time the states, alone, have authority to punish persons guilty of lynching or mob offenses.

Lynchings-1934
Legislation Relating to.

4746

COLUMBIA, MO.
MISSOURIAN
MAR 9 1934

National Law Against Lynching

THE Senate Judiciary committee opened hearings on Feb. 20 on the Costigan-Wagner bill to make lynching a federal offense. The bill would subject to a fine up to $5000 or imprisonment up to five years, or both, any state or local official who fails to make "all diligent efforts" to protect the individual in his charge from a mob. The same penalty is provided for such an official lax in his duties of arresting, jailing, or prosecuting any member of such a mob. The bill also provides for federal trial of members of a lynching mob under cetain conditions, and for a fine of $10,000 to a county in which a person is killed by a mob.

To pass the Costigan-Wagner bill seems advisable. Although the number of lynchings show, on the whole, a marked decline in the last decade, the year 1933 shows an increase.

Twelve states—Alabama, California, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia—have made lynching or mob violence a statutory crime; but Alabama has been the only state which has punished any of the lynchers, and lynchings have occurred in nine of the twelve states.

Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia impose a maximum penalty of death on all members of a mob which kills a person. In Georgia, the person causing the death of a mob victim is liable to death, and others engaged in the lynching may be imprisoned for from one to twenty years. California has the same provisions.

Kentucky imposes a penalty of death or life imprisonment to all members of a mob, while Indiana has the same penalty for active participants in a lynching and imprisonment of from one to twenty-one years for inactive participants. Life imprisonment is the maximum penalty for lynching in Kansas.

Eleven states—Connecticut, Kansas, Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and West Virginia—make the city or county in which a lynching occurs liable for damages in amounts ranging from $1000 in Nebraska to $10,000 in Pennsylvania.

Nine states—Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, New Jersey, South Carolina, and Tennessee—provide for the removal of the peace officers in charge when a person in custody is taken by a mob and lynched. But these removals differ in each state, just as do the penalties to mobs.

Southern senators killed the Dyer lynching bill after it was passed in the House in 1922. They and many who are vigorously opposed to lynching as a form of justice pointed out that most states had anti-lynching laws of one sort or another and that these laws did not prevent lynchings. This is true. But statistics show that the number of lynchings have decreased greatly since there has been some form of legislation against them.

Federal legislation always has been known to wield more power in the minds of would-be offenders than state legislation. But, the opponents of an anti-lynching bill might argue, mobs cannot be ruled by laws since the people who comprise them are temporarily insane and are not thinking of possible consequences. This argument can be answered through psychology. If a fact, such as penalties of a crime, is drilled firmly into a person's mind, he naturally will act, even if unconsciously, in accordance with them. This has explained the effectiveness of many legislative acts.

If an effective lynching law can be enacted and anti-lynching sentiment taught to everyone, a menace to public and private safety will be done away with. And such a law can be effective only if it is a national law—one which has the same strength in every state. It is for this reason that the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill is being urged on the Senate at present. It is to be hoped that the senators from the southern states will put race prejudice under cover and vote for national protection.

COLUMBIA, MO.
MISSOURIAN
MAR 9 1934

Lynching Must Go

THE proposed Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill now before the Senate Judiciary committee does not differ essentially from the Dyer anti-lynching bill which failed in the Senate in 1922.

The Dyer bill was a punitive measure giving the federal courts power to proceed against county officers and lynchers on the theory that failure of a state to protect the life of a person against a mob was a failure to carry out the guarantees of the constitution—"life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness." The Costigan-Wagner bill also attempts to protect the rights of the constitution by repeating the guarantee of equal protection of the laws to everyone.

Under the Dyer bill, peace oficers who had not made all possible effort to protect the life of a lynched person, even if that person were not in their custody, were punishable by imprisonment not exceeding five years or a maximum fine of $5000, or both. The same penalties were quoted for failure to expend all possible effort to apprehend and prosecute members of a lynching mob. The Costigan-Wagner bill is identical to the Dyer bill in these provisions.

Under the stipulations of the Costigan-Wagner bill, as under the Dyer bill, provisions are made for federal district court trial and punishment of members of a lynching mob. The Dyer bill stated that if the state failed to arrest and prosecute lynchers, the county would be liable to a forfeiture of $10,000. This sum would go to the victim's family or dependent parents, if any. If there were none, the sum was to go to the United States.

The Costigan-Wagner bill states that the federal court in the district in which the mob violence occurs shall have jurisdiction to try, in accordance with the laws of the state where the lynching took place, any member of a lynching mob under these conditions: It must be shown that the state officers are lax in prosecution, and that the juries obtainable for a state court are opposed to punishment for lynching.

Under the provisions of the Costigan-Wagner bill, a fine of $10,000 is levied on the county in which a person is killed by a mob. It is collected by the federal government by property, mandamus, or other appropriate measures. The new bill states that if a victim is seized in one county and put to death in another, both counties are liable for the fine. In this bill, as in the Dyer bill, provisions are made for the money to go to the dependents if there are any.

The Costigan-Wagner bill has a further clause not included in the Dyer bill. It provides that if an alien guaranteed protection by treaty is injured in any state against the laws of that state, such a crime is a federal offense.

The marked increase in lynchings in 1933 over 1932 has proved that control of mob violence is needed. In 1932, there were eight lynchings; in 1933, there were twenty-four. It is evident that some kind of uniform punishment is necessary and logical as the first step in eradicating lynchings. The new bill, introduced into the Senate and House by Senator Costigan of Colorado and Representative Cellar of New York, aims at uniformity of laws regarding lynchings, and hopes in this way to cope with the crime.

Obvious it is that mob violence has so thrust at our respect for law and at our basis of civilized order that lynching must go and go immediately. If drastic measures are required, then drastic measures we must have.

President "Too Busy"

Ruling Class in Vicious Attacks on Fighters for Rights of Negro People

Costigan Protects An Armwood Lyncher At Hearing On Bill

JIM-CROW NEGROES

Again Barred From the House Restaurant

Daily Worker

(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, Mar. 18.—Official Washington today resumed the hearings before the Senate sub-committee on the Wagner-Costigan "anti-lynching" bill with tepid questioning of one of the known Princess Anne lynchers of George Armwood and with flagrant Jim-Crowing of Negro reporters and spectators.

3-19-34

New York

William H. Thompson, Princess Anne pharmacist identified by two Maryland State Troopers as one of the Armwood lynchers, protested his innocence and presented character letters to the committee "so that you'll see who I am." At the time of the lynching, insisted Thompson, he was in a movie at another town, Salisbury, Maryland. When he returned to Princess Anne, said Thompson, "I didn't see but one man I recognized," though he has been in business in that town—population not over 1,000—for over seven years.

"Isn't it common knowledge down there who lynched Armwood," Senator Van Nuys, of Indiana, Chairman, asked Thompson.

"No sir," replied Thompson.

"Has any effort been made by the local authorities to apprehend the lynchers?"

Lyncher on Coroner's 'Investigation

"I couldn't say. I couldn't answer that question. I imagine there has."

"What is your opinion of the Wagner-Costigan bill?" asked Van Nuys.

"I'm not competent to answer that question," replied Thompson.

Protects His Fellow Boss Lynchers

"You're competent. You're a business man," responded Van Nuys.

"My personal opinion is that lynchers are not taxpayers and that it would put the burden on the taxpayers," advised Thompson.

Thompson said he didn't "recall" the name of the movie he saw that night in Salisbury, and didn't inquire what happened though "there was 1,000 people near his store."

Lyncher on Coroners "Investigation" of Lynching

"All you found (as a member of the coroner's jury) was that the man was dead and that was the sum total of your efforts," questioned Van Nuys.

"Yes sir."

Senator Costigan, one of the liberal sponsors of the bill (a measure which will not affect legal lynching) had "no questions" to ask Thompson.

LONGVIEW, WASH.
NEWS

FEB 26 1934

AN ANTI-LYNCHING LAW

THE senate judiciary committee has before it the Costigan-Wagner bill to make lynching a federal offense, which it is not at the present time. Although 1933, like 1930, showed a sharp increase in the number of lynchings in this country, the number has been on the decline during the past decade as a whole. Nevertheless even the degree to which the repulsive practice has been carried during this decade is justificative for federal action which will, if possible, practically stamp it from the slate of civilized activity. The queston arises, however, if federal law will help any.

Many persons who abhor lynching doubt the effectiveness of such a statute. They point out that most states now have anti-lynching laws of one sort or another and that these laws are not a preventative. Specifically if jurors in a state court will not convict members of a lynching mob, jurors in a federal court in the same judicial district are likely to take the same attitude. However advocates of the federal law point out that state laws may have at least minimized lynching and they believe that a federal law would be even more of a deterrent. Surely there is no broad reason why such crime should not be made a violation of national law since there is no argument that it is crime. A peculiar psychology operates in lynchings with mob leaders generally boldly confident that their immediate "public" will condone their action and even if they do not, refuse to raise a hand against them. A federal force in the form of a strongly worded law might help to reduce this mob boldness which is entirely out of place in our present code of criminal justice.

The Costigan-Wagner bill subjects to penalty a public official who does not make diligent effort to protect prisoners in his charge or who is lax in prosecuting mob members and give federal courts jurisdiction to try offenders. It even gives the federal government right to fine the county government $10,000 where a lynching occurs, and if two counties are involved, both are liable. The bill is almost identical with the Dyer bill which passed the house in 1922 and was killed in the senate by a filibuster.

JONESBORO, ARK.
TRIBUNE

MAR 5 1934

FURNISHING ARGUMENTS FOR AN ANTI-LYNCHING LAW.

The police of Tampa, Fla., arrested a Negro on suspicion of a crime against a girl, but cleared him on further investigation. While he was still at the city jail, and late at night, a county constable came with a warrant charging the prisoner with chicken stealing and took him away. An hour later the constable returned and told the police that a band of men had seized and killed his prisoner.

After spending three weeks on an investigation of the case, a Grand Jury reported that it had not been able to find evidence of mob violence or lynching in the killing of the prisoner.

That report becomes public just at the time when a federal anti-lynching bill is pending in the United States Senate. In the South we feel that lynching is a problem we can best, and should, deal with for ourselves. But what are we going to answer when other sections say to us: Isn't that an example of the way the South has for years been dealing with the lynching problem? — Arkansas Gazette.

Lynchings - 1934
Legislation Relating to.

4747

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
REPUBLICAN
FEB 27 1934

LYNCHING PROBLEM

Race Phase Incidental—Law and the Community Conscience

To the Editor of The Republican:—

The antilynching bill sponsored by Senators Wagner and Costigan is now before the Senate. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has assumed the responsibility of directing the hearings on the affirmative side, which has already had its inning. The opponents are still waiting to be heard. The hearings so far have hinged on the race issue, as if the Negro race, being the chief victim of the perpetration, was to be the chief beneficiary of the proposed legislation. In the main the spokesmen have been well known friends and sympathizers of the Negro.

But if this deepseated iniquity which is tainting the American character and straining the nation's reputation in the eyes of the world is to be effectively dealt with it must be considered on a broader and more comprehensive basis. The atrocious practice is limited to no particular race or section of the country. All but five states are stained with these bloodspots where uncondemned men and women have been done to death by an irresponsible mob, and oftentimes burned at the stake. Fifteen hundred white men and women have been lynched during the past 50 years and some of both sexes burned at the stake. There were four such white victims during the last year of Our Lord. The bodies of two white victims were fed to the flames for the horrible holocaust at San Jose, Cal. If not a single Negro had been lynched or burned during the past half century, the white victims alone would be sufficient to arouse the national conscience to the point of remedial action.

Lynching is not of itself an evil apart, and cannot be isolated and treated as such. It is but a sympton of lawlessness which afflicts the whole body of the American people. America is the most lawless nation within the sisterhood of civilized states. There are 15 times as many murders in New York city as in London—two municipalities of about the same population. Lynching is a peculiar American institution which is unknown in other civilized countries. It cannot be accounted for by the presence of the Negro. In some parts of the country during previous decades the whites were the chief victims. We never hear of lynching in the West Indies and in South America, where Negroes abound in relative numbers comparable to the situation in the United States.

The Negro furnishes the greater number of victims because, as Mr Dooley used to say, he is most easily lynched. Lawlessness, murder, lynching, kidnaping and burning of human bodies at the stake abound in America because the nation has acquired a bad conscience as to the sanctity of law and the sacredness of human life.

The basic remedy for lawlessness lies in the rectification of the nation's conscience. Where law, human and divine, loses its sanction, all forms of crime and moral dissolution may be expected to follow in its wake. When the nation nullifies or permits to be nullified, the 14th, 15th and 18th amendments—vital sections of its organic law—concomitant or resulting moral and social disorder should not be surprising. Passing a law against a specific evil may be a step in the right direction, but it cannot purify the national conscience. The remedy must be as deepseated and as comprehensive as the disease.

Our national malady is a moral one; the remedy must partake of the same nature. A mob is a crowd of angry men temporarily possessed of the devil and is not amenable to man-made or moral law. They can be restrained, not by any moralless formula of the law or fear of resulting penalty, but only by a healthy local and national sentiment which will prevent them from being worked up to such a pitch of irresponsible frenzy.

This is the task of the school, the church, and of the organs and agencies which influence and mold private and public opinion. Our hasty impatience may be unwilling to abide the slow process and may demand instant panaceas. Antilynching bills, whether under state or national auspices, would be effective in curbing lawlessness, including murder, lynching, kidnaping and burning of human bodies, only in so far as they might have indirect effect upon a more healthy and tonic public opinion.

The North, South, East and West are being aroused; men and women, white and black, are alive to the necessities and the dangers of the situation. Of especial significance is the magnanimous activity of the white women of the South, in behalf of whose virtue and honor the lynchers plead justification for their atrocious deeds. President Roosevelt, as moral monitor of the nation, has sounded a clear, clarion call to the conscience of the people to put an end to mob murder. Such united interest if persisted in with determined purpose cannot fail to effect beneficial results. In the meantime, it would be well if the American people could forget the Negro as a provocative incident and if the Negro could forget himself as a suffering entity, and let all true and loyal Americans join in one undivided effort to wipe out this foul stain upon our national character and roll away this ugly reproach from our national honor.

The white race constitutes the bulk of the population and has assumed the roll of rulership and dominion. therefore the greater duty and responsibility devolves upon him. The public opinion of the world holds the white race responsible for the maintenance of law and orderly government. We often hear it said that this is a white man's country. If this be so, it is high time that he was looking after it to save it from threatened ruin through lawlessnes.

So far as the Negro is concerned his part is chiefly negative as the ill-favored recipient of the white man's vengeance and wrath. But so far as in him lies, it is seriously incumbent upon him to refrain from all semblance of offenses which lend excuse to lynching or any other form or lawlessness. Those who stand in the high places of leadership and direction of the masses should be at pains to inculcate the lessons of righteous behavior and circumspect conduct. The victims of lawlessness should observe and uphold the law.

KELLY MILLER.

Howard university, Washington, D. C., February 23, 1934.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
AGE HERALD
FEB 26 1934

On Curing Ourselves

Among witnesses appearing in behalf of the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill before the Senate judiciary subcommittee was Elizabeth Yates Webb, daughter of Federal Judge Edwin Yates Webb, of North Carolina, and in her own right professor of history at Vassar College. Fully aware that "we have been taught in the South that state rights means more than federal rights," Miss Webb said: "Personally, I'd rather see the federal government usurp some of the states' power than to have mobs do it. There are thousands of us who care so much that we are willing to accept help from any source."

This is "a pertinent retort," The Baltimore Sun says, although it is among opponents of the measure, and "a view to be reckoned with," for "if the states wish to avert further extension of federal authority into the domain of their sovereignty, they must demonstrate that they have the will and the power to prevent mobs from overriding laws and depriving citizens of the right of trial by jury." In other words, if the state-right argument is not to be regarded merely as a dodge for communities which are trying to hide their weakness and indifference behind it, they must exert themselves by statute and action to remove the conditions which have given this lynching bill a fair chance of passage.

In dealing with the problem of lynching, it is clear that we face what Dr. Howard Odum has called a "folkway," something not easily eradicated, to be sure, but something which is subject to the ameliorative attack of effective laws and an alert public opinion. The truth of the situation is that in neither respect are the states in which lynchings have been frequent meeting this test in a satisfactory way. If this continues to be their walk and conduct, they will be estopped from protesting against federal interference. They cannot continue to allow mobs to usurp their authority and then complain when the federal government, in the interest of justice and civilization, undertakes to do so.

In a discussion of the Wagner-Costigan proposal, The Charlotte Observer makes the point that the elimination of the evil of lynching is not a matter of enacted laws, and that a federal statute would amount to little more than adding to provisions already carried in most of the state codes. "The reason the courts fall down in proper and efficient handling of this evil is because of the flabby sentiment among the people," it is observed. "Once that is set right, concerted and dynamic and determined motion against lynching, it can be blotted out. But by laws alone—never!"

One flaw in this argument is that it assumes that the states have adopted adequate measures for the curbing of lynching. That is true in some instances, but it is questionable whether, except in those cases, the resources of "jurisprudence" have been exhausted. Another flaw is in the assumption that "sentiment among the people" might not respond to the prodding of a federal law directed against lynching. Courts which do not rely upon "flabby sentiment" could serve to set going a process to displace lethargy with a fresh and vigorous realization of the significance of lynching.

The Age-Herald is still convinced that enactment of the anti-lynching bill now before Congress would be regrettable because it would deprive states and localities of the high privilege of winning their own emancipation from the reign of mob law. But it is high time that this prerogative be lived up to in terms of reality, instead of pious avowal. It is to be hoped that Messrs. Wagner and Costigan will not attain their end. But that should be only the signal for the fashioning of that finer dispensation which has no place for the lyncher or his apologist.

COLUMBIA, S. C.
RECORD
FEB 19 1934

TASK AND OPPORTUNITY.

The United States senate judiciary committee will open hearings tomorrow on the Costigan-Wagner bill to make lynching a federal offense.

And the Costigan-Wagner bill is no half-way measure as anti-lynching bills go. There are as the saying is, teeth in it. It subjects to a fine up to $5,000 or imprisonment up to five years, or both, any state, country or local official who, charged with the protection of an individual, fails to make "all diligent efforts" to protect him from injury or death at the hands of a mob. A similar penalty is provided also for any state or local official lax in his duties of arresting, jailing or prosecuting lynchers.

Any county in which a person is killed by a mob shall, the bill further provides, be fined $10,000, the fine, incidentally, to be levied by the federal government, which would be given the right to collect by property levy, mandamus, or other appropriate measures. In case the victim is seized in one county and put to death in another, each county is to be held liable for the fine.

Finally, also, the federal court in the judicial district where mob violence occurs, is to have jurisdiction to try, under the laws of the state, any member of a lynching mob when state officers may be lax in prosecuting the state trial of the case or when jurors obtainable for a state court are opposed to punish for the lynching.

It would probably be too much to say of course that this bill will prevent lynching, or even that it will result in the punishment of lynchers. Final responsibility for the enforcement of federal laws, like all state laws, rests upon the jurors and federal juries, except for the fact that negroes are more often drawn for service on them than on state juries in some Southern states, are not greatly different from the state juries . Both reflect local opinion and both, as recent experience with federal prohibition demonstrates, may fall short upon occasion of exact justice and in very similar proportions. It might even, by arousing state animosities—it is such a nullification of state rights as to make the child labor amendment by comparison the product of John C. Calhoun's pen and brain; even the child labor amendment does not take away from the citizens of the state or county the right to sit in judgment on the officers who may be elected by their ballots—defeat its very purpose, making more difficult, not less, the conviction of the murderers who call themselves lynchers.

But despite the bill's deficiencies and dangers—and they are real, not imaginary—there is trouble aplenty in it for state and county officers in lynching states. It will be the federal courts' job to determine when a county sheriff or a city policeman may not make "all diligent efforts" to protect a prisoner and their right to decide when any state or local official may be lax in arresting, jailing or prosecuting members of lynching mobs. And this even though it may not mean that any great number of sheriffs and what not will go to jail may mean that state and county officers, here and there, may be arrested and subjected to the indignity and publicity of federal trials.

And one section of the bill may even be expected to be literally enforced at the expense of the county taxpayers—this being of course the provision for a $10,000 fine to be assessed against the county in which a lynching may occur. Similar provisions of state law are enforced.

The non-committal decision of a Laurens county coroner's jury in its investigation of the death of Norris Dendy, negro, who was taken from the Clinton jail and beaten to death July 4 of last year, takes on something of more than local importance although its importance locally is not to underestimated. The jurors, as the news reports have it, heard testimony in which witnesses told how they had seen three or four men take the negro from the jail. The jurors apparently choose to doubt this testimony or to disagree with it and despite the witnesses' statements dismissed the killing as the work of "a party or parties unknown." But the slaying cannot be dismissed: somebody killed the negro Dendy, somebody took him from the Clinton jail. And somebody in Laurens county knows who the slayers were; these things are always known and the coroner's jury's might even, it seems, have discovered who did the killing. That is the purpose of coroner's inquests.

And Laurens county's responsibility doesn't end with the verdict. The county's responsibility, as in any other murder case, is to discover, arrest, convict and punish the slayers, whoever they may be. In this case of course the county and state have more than usual concern in the apprehension and conviction of the killers; Dendy when he was slain was a prisoner. The problem is unchanged by the know-nothing inquest verdict. The fact remains that a man was killed in Laurens county. And Laurens county cannot afford to let killings go unpunished; it cannot surrender either to mobs or to "unknown parties" except at grave risks. When orderly government surrenders no man's life is safe. It must go on with its investigations—for its own sake .

The one convincing argument against the passage of the Costigan-Wagner bill is that the states can do what no federal court can not do—if the state is actually desirous of doing something. Laurens has the opportunity to supply the demonstration.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
AGE HERALD
FEB 23 1934

Lynching And Federal Action

Thoughtful Southerners will watch with mixed feelings the hearings now being held by a Senate judiciary subcommittee on the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill. There can be little doubt touching the seriousness of this movement to make lynching a federal offense. And that is something which believers in local responsibility and states' rights can scarcely contemplate with equanimity. On the other hand, if, as seems likely, the committee goes into the George Armwood case, which finally led to open defiance of state authorities by the courts and people of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the lynching evil will have been presented to the attention of the country in all its shocking significance.

Other attempts to make lynching a federal crime have come from sources which the South could consider prejudiced or hostile. That is not true in this instance. For both Wagner and Costigan are Democrats, and neither is under any obligation to press a proposal aimed at this section with malice prepense. Not only is this to be borne in mind, but the juncture at which the legislation is being urged is important. It comes upon the heels of the dreadful affair at San Jose, Calif., and it has the implied approval of the president himself.

The measure provides for the punishment of state officers who permit lynchings they can prevent and for the payment of indemnities to the families of victims. According to Senator Wagner, "the bill involves no desire to supplant state action with federal action or the removal from the states of their primary responsibility for the protection of their citizenry—it provides for federal action only where the state has failed." Whatever the senator's desire or purpose may be, the effect of such legislation is to give lynching a federal character, and to that extent remove the need for local zeal in moving against the mob.

Whatever may be the immediate fate of the Wagner-Costigan proposal, the thing which must be borne in mind in the South is that ultimately some such legislation will be adopted at Washington unless a very radical change will have been registered in conditions in this section. Let the increase in lynchings continue, let the record of 1933 be repeated, let local authorities fail or refuse to indict and punish lynchers, and federal intervention is certain to come. That much is written in the stars.

There is another way of facing this danger. Obviously, state laws against lynching need to be strengthened. By holding officers to a stiffer obligation and by placing on counties in which lynchings occur the burden of paying indemnities, the situation is likely to be materially improved. If this looks like tracking Messrs. Wagner and Costigan, it can also be regarded as proving the sincerity and courage of people who contend for the right of the state to solve this problem.

Lynchings - 1934
Legislation Relating to.

4748

OUTH BEND, IND
TRIBUNE

FEB 20 1934

Anti-Lynching Bill.

Any law enforcement official failing to make "all diligent efforts" to protect a prisoner from a mob would be subject to a fine up to $5,000 or imprisonment up to five years or both under the Costigan-Wagner bill, which is now in the United States senate judiciary committee. More, the same scale of penalties is provided for any official proved lax in arresting, confining or prosecuting mob members. The federal court in any judicial district in which mob violence occurs would have jurisdiction under the Costigan-Wagner measure to try mob members if state officers were lax in prosecution or if jurors or prospective jurors in a state court were opposed to punishment for lynching.

The bill also provides for a fine of $10,000 to be levied by the federal government on the government of the county in which a mobe has committed murder. The federal government could collect the fine by mandamus, by property levy "or other appropriate measures." If a mob seized a man or woman in one county and committed the murder in another county both counties would be subject to $10,000 fines. If the mob victim left dependents the federal government would turn the money over to them. The bill also stipulates that injury of an alien guaranteed protection by treaty shall be a federal offense. This provision apparently is an outgrowth of the shooting of a young Mexican by state officers a year or two ago.

The Costigan-Wagner bill is essentially the same as the Dyer anti-lynching bill introduced in congress in 1921 and 1922. That measure won approval in the house of representatives by a vote of 231 to 119 but it was killed in the senate by a filibuster carried on by southern senators who described themselves as defenders of state rights against federal encroachment. At that time the constitutionality of the proposed anti-lynching legislation was seriously questioned by many legislators who found otherwise attractive the principle of federal anti-lynching legislation. The Costigan-Wagner bill goes no further than the Dyer bill in concessions on the constitutional issue.

Opposition to federal legislation, of course, does not connote approval of lynching. Many authorities are convinced that a federal anti-lynching statute would not materially improve conditions. Most states, they point out, have statutes for that purpose, yet lynching remains a national problem. The doubters say that if jurors in a state court refuse to vote for conviction of mob members jurors in a federal court in that same judicial district are likely to vote the same way. The federal law proponents argue that state laws have at least made the lynching problem less serious and that the might of the federal government would be even more effective.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.
GAZETTE

FEB 22 1934

LYNCHING AND THE NATION AND THE STATES.

The anti-lynching bill sponsored by Senators Wagner and Costigan provides for penalizing counties where lynchings occur with a $10,000 federal fine. This provision has aroused opposition, as well it might.

Assuming that the federal government has power to impose and collect a fine on a county, that penalty would necessarily be assessed in fact on the taxpayers of the county. The participants in a lynching are likely to be people who pay the smallest amounts in taxes. The fine would not fall on them, but on those who have no sympathy or condonation for lynching, and are ready to do everything in their power to prevent outbreaks of mob violence. The innocent would be made to pay a financial penalty which the guilty, or many of them, would escape.

Under the American system of government lynching is plainly a crime for the individual states to deal with through the machinery of their local courts and peace officers. This proposal for a federal law and federal penalties has been brought by the failure of the states to take effective action. To realize this is not to overlook the fact that in numberless instances lynchings have been prevented by the firmness of state, county or city authorities. But it must be admitted that the record of the states in prosecuting and punishing members of lynching mobs is lamentably bad.

YOUNGSTOWN, O.
TELEGRAM

FEB 21 1934

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

LET the states do it, is the cry of opponents of the federal anti-lynching bill now under congressional hearings. The answer is that the states either cannot or will not protect citizens from lynch mobs. This is not a matter of argument or opinion. It is a fact—a brutal fact established by unhindered lynchings in every year of our national history.

The fundamental reason for the existence of an American government and constitution is the protection of the rights of citizens. The right to life is basic. Any government which deliberately fails to protect that right has sacrificed its excuse for being.

This issue is neither sectional nor racial. In one of the worst recent cases the state was California and the victims were white. Of the 5,053 known lynchings since 1882 whites have been the victims 1,450 times. Ninety-four women have been lynched.

Rape is not the customary cause of lynching. The record shows that only 17 per cent of the victims were even accused of that crime by the lynchers themselves—and many of that 17 per cent were innocent.

These are of the type of hard facts behind the statement of President Roosevelt that lynching is one of the crimes which "have threatened our security." And, the President added:

"These violations of ethics and these violations of law call on the strong arm of government for their immediate suppression; they call also on the country for an aroused public opinion."

JOURNAL
Pottsville - Pa.

FEB 19 1933

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

The Senate Judiciary committee will open hearings tomorrow on the Costigan-Wagner bill to make lynching a federal offense.

The Costigan-Wagner bill subjects to a fine up to $5,000 or imprisonment up to 5 years, or both, any state or local official who is charged with the protection of an individual and who fails to make "all diligent efforts" to protect him from injury at the hands of a mob. A similar penalty is provided for any state or local official lax in his duties of arresting, jailing, or prosecuting any member of such mob. Also, the federal court in the judicial district where mob violence occurs shall have jurisdiction to try, under the laws of the state concerned, any member of a lynching mob, but only if (1) state officers are lax in prosecution, or (2) jurors obtainable for a state court are opposed to punishment for the lynching.

Any county in which a person is killed by a mob shall be fined $10,000. This fine is to be levied by the federal government, which is given the right to collect by property levy, mandamus, or other appropriate measures. In case the victim is seized in one county and put to death in another, each county is liable for the fine. If the victim has dependents, the fine is to go to them. Finally, if an alien guaranteed protection by treaty is injured in any state against the laws of that state, the crime becomes a federal offense.

The Costigan-Wagner bill is almost identical with the Dyer anti-lynching bill which was introduced in Congress in 1921 and in succeeding sessions. The Dyer bill was passed by the House in January, 1922, by vote of 231 to 119. It was killed in the

Senate by a filibuster of southern senators opposed to federal intervention in what they considered a state problem. There was considerable doubt of the constitutionality of the measure even on the part of many of its supporters. The Costigan-Wagner bill, like the Dyer bill, attempts to meet the constitutional issue by rehearsing the constitutional guarantees of equal protection of the laws to all persons.

Many persons who abhor lynching doubt also the effectiveness of a federal anti-lynching statute. They point out that most states now have anti-lynching laws of one sort or another, and that these laws do not prevent lynchings. Specifically, if jurors in a state court will not vote to convict members of a lynching mob, jurors in a federal court of the judicial district concerned are likely to take the same attitude. Advocates of a federal law point out that state laws may have at least minimized lynching, and they believe that a federal law would be even more of a deterrent.

In the last decade, the number of lynchings showed, on the whole, a marked decline, with a record low in 1932. The year 1933, however, like 1930, showed an increase. Contrary to general belief, rape is not the chief cause of lynchings. In the 40-year period from 1889 to 1929, only one-sixth of the persons lynched were accused of rape; and if to this accusation be added attempted rape, the proportion is still less than one-fourth. More than one-third were accused of murder. It is interesting to note also that the proportion of lynchings has been considerably lower in the so-called Black Belt, where negroes comprise more than one-half the population, than in counties with less than one-fourth negro population.

SAN DIEGO, CALIF.
SUN

FEB 22 1934

The Anti-Lynching Bill

LET the states do it, is the cry of opponents of the federal anti-lynching bill now under Congressional hearings. The answer is that the states either cannot or will not protect citizens from lynch mobs. This is not a matter of argument or opinion. It is a fact—a brutal fact established by unhindered lynchings in every year of our national history.

The fundamental reason for the existence of an American government and constitution is the protection of the rights of citizens. The right to life is basic. Any government which deliberately fails to protect that right has sacrificed its excuse for being.

This issue is neither sectional nor racial. In one of the worst recent cases the state was California and the victims were white. Of the 5,053 known lynchings since 1882, whites have been the victims 1,450 times. Ninety-four women have been lynched.

Rape is not the customary cause of lynching. The record shows that only 17 per cent of the victims were even accused of that crime by the lynchers themselves—and many of that 17 per cent were innocent.

Regarding the recent Tuscaloosa case, the investigator of the Southern Commission for the study of lynching, reported: "One of the four mob victims was undoubtedly innocent, two others probably so, and the fourth possibly so."

In that case, as so often happens, local officials did not try to protect the victims and did not try to punish the culprits. In the San Jose case, Governor Rolph publicly encouraged lynching. On the other hand when Governor Ritchie sent Maryland state troops to arrest alleged lynchers, the mob drove out the troops.

These are the hard facts behind the statement of President Roosevelt that lynching is one of the crimes which "have threatened our security." And, the President added:

"The violations of ethics and these violations of law call on the strong arm of government for their immediate suppression; they call also on the country for an aroused public opinion."

ROME, N. Y.
SENTINEL

FEB 22 1934

What Is a Lynching?

That is the somewhat unexpected question that has arisen in connection with the pending Wagner-Costigan bill for the suppression of lynching. At a hearing before the Senate committee, Karl N. Llewellyn, professor of law at Columbia University, said he would consider carefully a possible amendment restricting definitions of violence to slaying of persons charged with a crime or taken from the authorities. Fears had been expressed lest the federal penalty to be imposed upon counties in which lynchings occur, might become applicable in the case of a gangster slaying.

It might seem that it would be possible readily to define a lynching in unmistakable language, but experience has shown that the courts are disposed to find meanings in simple language such as would never be imagined by the man in the street. In the popular conception a lynching is the illegal killing by a mob of a person supposed to have committed a crime. It makes no difference whether he has previously been arrested or not; whether he is actually guilty or not. Such difficulty as there may be would seem to apply to the definition of a mob. One person can not comprize a mob or perpetrate a lynching. Two persons are not usually regarded as a mob, but they might conduct a lynching; however, Congress would have no object in seeking to penalize a county because two or three or half a dozen citizens took it into their heads to kill privately a person suspected of a crime. That would be ordinary murder.

If we are to have a federal anti-lynching law at all, it ought to be confined to cases in which the authorities have had some warning and an opportunity to prevent mob action, if there has been no arrest. Where there has been an arrest and no reasonable precautions taken against a potential mob, a penalty might reasonably be imposed—if constitutional authority can be found for such an act of Congress.

Jacksonville, Fla.
JOURNAL

FEB 20 1934

The Anti-Lynching Bill

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The Costigan-Wagner bill subjects to a fine up to $5,000 or imprisonment up to 5 years, or both, any state or local official who is charged with the protection of an individual and who fails to make "all diligent efforts" to protect him from injury at the hands of a mob. A similar penalty is provided for any state or local official lax in his duties of arresting, jailing, or prosecuting any member of such mob. Also, the federal court in the judicial district where mob violence occurs shall have jurisdiction to try, under the laws of the state concerned, any member of a lynching mob, but only if (1) state officers are lax in prosecution, or (2) jurors obtainable for a state court are opposed to punishment for the lynching.

Any county in which a person is killed by a mob shall be fined $10,000. This fine is to be levied by the federal government, which is given the right to collect by property levy, mandamus, or other appropriate measures. In case the victim is seized in one county and put to death in another, each county is liable for the fine. If the victim has dependents, the fine is to go to them. Finally, if an alien guaranteed protection by treaty is injured in any state against the laws of that state, the crime becomes a federal offense.

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Many persons who abhor lynching doubt also the effectiveness of a federal anti-lynching statute. Most states now have anti-lynching laws of one sort or another, and these laws do not prevent lynchings. If jurors in a state court will not vote to convict members of a lynching mob, jurors in a federal court of the judicial district concerned are likely to take the same attitude. Advocates of a federal law point out that state laws may have at least minimized lynching, and they believe that a federal law would be even more of a deterrent.

In the last decade, the number of lynchings showed, on the whole, a marked decline, with a record low in 1932. The year 1933, however, like 1930, showed an increase. Contrary to general belief, rape is not the chief cause of lynchings. In the 40-year period from 1889 to 1929 only one-sixth of the persons lynched were accused of rape; and if to this accusation be added attempted rape, the proportion is still less than one-fourth. More than one-third were accused of murder. It is interesting to note also that the proportion of lynchings has been considerably lower in the so-called Black Belt, where negroes comprise more than one-half the population, than in counties with less than one-fourth negro population.

Lynchings - 1934
Legislation Relating to.

4749

This syndicate press
article was in the
following papers.

CINCINNATI, O.
POST
FEB 21 1934

Oklahoma City, Okla
NEWS
FEB 21 1934

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
TIMES
FEB 21 1934

AKRON, O.
TIMES PRESS
FEB 21 1934

TOLEDO, O.
NEWS-BEE
FEB 22 1934

EL PASO TEX.
HERALD
FEB 24 1934

FORT WORTH, TEX.
PRESS
FEB 21 1934

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

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This issue is neither sectional nor racial. In one of the worst recent cases the state was California and the victims were white. Of the 5053 known lynchings since 1882, whites have been the victims 1450 times. Ninety-four women have been lynched.

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Regarding the recent Tuscaloosa case, the investigator of the Southern Commission for the Study of Lynching, reported: 'One of the four mob victims was undoubtedly innocent, two others probably so, and the fourth possibly so."

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These are the type of hard facts behind the statement of President Roosevelt that lynching is one of the crimes which "have threatened our security." And, the President added:

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PHILADELPHIA, PA.
BULLETIN
FEB 23 1934

DRASTIC ANTI-LYNCHING LAW

Consideration of the Federal anti-lynching bill by the Senate Judiciary sub-committee which has the matter in hand may develop into a Federal investigation of the ARMWOOD lynching on the Eastern Shore of Maryland last October. The committee has heard the State Attorney General and the Federal District Attorney at Baltimore; a Methodist clergyman of Baltimore has given testimony as to the attitude of mind of the people of the Eastern Shore on the lynching, and the committee is now considering issuing subpenas for eight men suspected of having participated in the killing, whose names were furnished to it by the Attorney General.

The bill itself has been criticised in several important particulars, in some cases by persons not hostile to its general purpose. The Federal District Attorney at Baltimore, while holding that the probability of the bill's being held constitutional was fair enough to warrant favorable action, objected that the provision of the bill fixing a minimum of five years' imprisonment for participation in a lynching was so severe that it might give juries "a powerful incentive to indulge in reasonable doubt."

The bill imposes a penalty of $10,000 on any county "in which a person is put to death by a mob or riotous assemblage; in the case of a victim being seized in one county and taken to another on the death ride, the counties are jointly liable. The law admits no defense on the part of the county against the fact that the mob killing occurred within its jurisdiction. There has been objection that this letter of the law would include any gang-killing, by a group of gunmen on a raid, the act defining a mob as "three or more persons, acting in concert, without authority of law, for the purpose of depriving any person of his life or doing him physical injury."

WHEELING, W. VA.
INTELLIGENCER
FEB 20 1934

ANTI-LYNCHING LEGISLATION

Hearings on the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill will open today before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

This proposal, which is almost identical with the Dyer bill, which began its unsuccessful assault upon Congress in 1921, would make kidnaping a Federal offense. It provides a number of severe penalties in an effort to discourage the crime. For example, any official failing to make "all diligent efforts" to protect a prisoner in his charge from mob violence would be subjected to a fine up to $5,000, imprisonment for five years, or both. Any County in which a lynching occurred would be fined $10,000. This would be imposed by the Government, which would have the right to collect by property tax, mandamus or other appropriate proceedings. In case a victim were seized in one County and put to death in another both Counties would be liable.

Waiving any constitutional objections which might be raised against this proposal, its justice and policy are seriously to be questioned. It is very doubtful that the existence of such legislation would deter a mob inflamed to the murder pitch. In such state of mind men are unreasoning and have no regard for any law. Most States, including West Virginia, have anti-lynching laws now, laws which impose fines upon Counties in which lynchings occur. That the West Virginia law has had any influence upon lynching is extremely doubtful.

To fine a County which might have exercised every reasonable care to protect a prisoner is unjust. To fine an officer for failure to protect his prisoner is impractical. A state of mind which promotes mob violence also tends to defeat the infliction of punishment. The result of an attempt to enforce such provisions as the pending measure contains well might operate to make it more difficult rather than less difficult to punish those who take the law into their own hands.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
NEWS
FEB 22 1934

Congress Deliberates Over A New Anti-Lynching Bill

With the opening of hearings on the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill in the judiciary committee of the Senate, a number of questions rise as to the wisdom of the provisions which the measure contains. The general object of the bill is to make lynching a federal offense. Further than that, it provides for the federal prosecution of state officers charged with laxity in the protection of prisoners from mob violence.

The Costigan-Wagner bill subjects to a fine up to $5,000 or imprisonment up to five years, or both, any state or local official who is charged with the protection of an individual and who fails to make "all diligent efforts" to protect him from injury at the hands of a mob.

A similar penalty is provided for any state or local official negligent or lax in his duties of arresting, jailing or prosecuting any member of such a mob. Again, the federal courts in districts where mob violence occurs would have jurisdiction to try, under the laws of the state concerned, any member of a lynching mob, in case state officers are lax in prosecution, or in case jurors obtainable for a state court are opposed to punishment for the lynching.

It may be that the foregoing provisions of the Costigan-Wagner bill are noble enough in purpose. But there is a grave doubt as to whether they would work out in practice. It would be very difficult indeed, for example, to obtain convincing proof that state officers were actually lax in prosecution.

Even should such a laxity be generally acknowledged in the personal conversations of the citizens of a given community, there would be no certainty that satisfactory legal evidence could be obtained in support of such a contention on the part of an outside person. State or local courts would not find it very difficult to give the appearance of being extraordinarily diligent, when such, as a matter of fact, would not be the case at all.

Another weakness in the bill seems to hinge upon the provision that federal courts could try supposed members of a lynching mob only in case jurors obtainable for state courts are opposed to punishment for the lynching. An allowance of this kind, of course, lays the way open for avoiding the aims of the bill. A prospective juryman would hardly declare publicly and officially that he was opposed to the punishment of the members of a lynch mob. Thus, only in the most extreme cases—situations involving what would amount to actual anarchy—would the jurisdiction pass to the federal courts.

The Costigan-Wagner bill also provides that any county in which a person is killed by a mob shall be fined $10,000. This fine would be levied by the federal government. In case the victim is seized in one county and put to death in another, both counties would be liable for the fine. That kind of set-up probably would not prove effectual in practice for the reason that the possibility of a penalty of this sort would not have much relation to the passions responsible for mob violence.

CAMDEN, N. J.
COURIER

FEB 22 1934

MORE LAWS WON'T STOP THE LAWLESS

Humanitarians and liberals, distressed by the wave of mob murders, are pressing a Federal anti-lynching bill in the Senate.

Their remedy is as bad as their motives are excellent.

The bill provides for punishment of state officers who allow a lynching to take place. It proposes an indemnity of $10,000 to the family of the victim, to be paid by the county in which the lynching occurs.

Imagine a drunken gang of mobsters pausing because someone remembered that the county would have to pay a $10,000 indemnity!

Imagine a state or county official, who would permit a lynching under the present laws, suddenly deciding to do his duty because he feared Federal punishment!

Passing special laws about lynching encourages the lynchers' contention that there is something special, something different about lynch cases.

The idea that needs stimulation is that lynching is plain murder and differs from any other murder only in that it is usually more ghastly and easier to prevent.

If existing laws cannot be enforced because of local sentiment, there is no reason on earth to believe that another law will change human nature.

WILMINGTON, DEL.
NEWS

FEB 23 1934

URGE FEDERAL LYNCHING LAW

ALL things considered, the United States Senate Judiciary Sub-Committee has had the novel experience of listening to pleas for a national anti-lynching law.

The Attorney General of Maryland admitted that the authorities were powerless to prosecute lynchers. And he named for the first time eight alleged participants in the Princess Anne lynching.

If he had the names and believed they were participants why did not the authorities prosecute and use greater efforts? The Attorney General declared to the committee that the prisoners were released without any hearing and that the local prosecutor refused to act.

Various opinions were expressed, one former Federal prosecutor of Maryland saying that under existing laws there was no justification for Federal prosecuting of lynchers but he favored the proposed change.

It would be difficult for many to see how lynching could be prevented by Federal action though those inclined to join a mob might hestitate for fear of facing Federal fury. However, lynchings are very uncommon in Maryland.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER

FEB 22 1934

AN ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

HEARINGS before a Senate judiciary subcommittee on the Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynching Bill opened with a lively discussion of the provision which would impose a fine of $10,000 on counties in which lynchings occur. If, as happened not long ago, the victim should be seized in one county and put to death in another, both counties would be liable to the fine. Although a Columbia University professor defended this provision as the "heart" of the measure, grave doubts regarding the wisdom of such a fine were expressed. It is made more doubtful by the fact that there are hundreds of impoverished counties which could not pay the fine.

The bill also would subject to a fine up to $5000 or imprisonment up to five years, or both, any State or local official who is charged with the protection of an individual and who fails to make "all diligent efforts" to protect him from injury at the hands of a mob. A similar penalty is provided for any State or local official lax in his duties of arresting, jailing or prosecuting any member of such a mob.

This remarkable bill is almost identical with the Dyer measure, which was introduced in Congress in the 1921 and succeeding sessions. There was considerable doubt of the constitutionality of that measure even on the part of many of its supporters. The Costigan-Wagner Bill, like the Dyer Bill, attempts to meet this issue by rehearsing the constitutional guarantees of equal protection of the laws to all persons. There are likewise serious doubts of the effectiveness of a Federal anti-lynching law, but the condoning of the California mob by Governor Rolph and the indifference of authorities in other States have given considerable support to Federal action against this abhorrent crime.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
MORNING PUBLIC LEDGER

FEB 22 1934

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

THE latest anti-lynching bill to be introduced in Congress is encountering the same opposition as its numerous predecessors. The first measure of this kind was introduced nearly seventy years ago. In 1922 the Dyer Bill was passed by the House but rejected by the Senate.

The Senate debate on the Wagner-Costigan Bill has now centered on the provision to penalize counties where lynchings occur with a $10,000 fine. The sum would be paid to the relatives of the victim. The practicability of this provision has been questioned as well as the constitutionality of this proposed law with its extension of the Federal police power.

Until last year there had been a progressive decrease in the number of lynchings, which was attributed to the education of public opinion and the greater determination of officials to do their duty in protecting prisoners. The fact that there were three times as many lynchings in 1933 as in 1932 may not mean a permanent recrudescence of this evil. Revival of the demand for Federal legislation was to be expected. But the forces formerly at work to reduce the number of cases of mob violence may again assert themselves and prevent a repetition of the reproach of 1933.

Camden, S. C., Messenger
February 28, 1934

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

A niece of a former governor of North Carolina and daughter of a Federal judge of that state—with strong inference that her politics is that of a Democrat, appeared before the United States Senate judiciary committee advocating the passage of the anti-lynching bill, pending in that body, according to a Washington dispatch to the Charlotte Observer.

She made a strong plea against the infamous, indefensible lynchings that have been recorded against the good name of the section from which she hails. She had a perfect right to argue for the Federal bill. But such a measure should not be enacted into law; for the simple reason that the states themselves should have absolute power and jurisdiction in dealing with the subject. No good can come from such agitation or even enactment of such a bill by the Federal government. Certainly lynchings should be stamped out, by outraged public conscience, irrespective of parties or races. But the states should themselves act, vigourously and effectively to remove this foulest of blots against civilization. There is too much encroachment upon their sovereignty and authority already written into the Federal laws as they stand, without adding an anti-lynching law to propogate clashes of authority between state and Federal officials and create conditions where the "buck" can be passed from one to the other.—Spartanburg Journal.

Thirsty after a game of golf, J. C. Broderick of Evanston, Ill., drank from a jug filled with lye and died shortly afterward.

Lynchings-1934
Legislation Relating to.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.
POST

FEB 20 1934

Senators Wait Princess Anne Lynching Story

Lane to Give Committee Evidence Against Four Freed by Court.

Details of the evidence gathered by Attorney General W. Preston Lane, of Maryland, which caused him, with the aid of National Guard troops, to arrest four alleged participants in the Princess Anne lynching last November, may be made public before the Senate Judiciary Committee tomorrow.

This committee today will start hearings on the Wagner-Costigan Federal antilynching bill. Mr. Lane has been subpenaed to appear tomorrow. A subpena also was issued for Simon E. Sobeloff, United States attorney for Maryland. The remainder of two score witnesses were invited without subpenas.

At the office of Senator Frederick Van Nuys (Democrat), of Indiana, in charge of the hearings, it was said that neither Mr. Lane nor Mr. Sobeloff had declined to come voluntarily, but that the subpenas were issued so that each might give to the committee without reluctance whatever evidence they have on the Princess Anne lynchings.

Will Make Case Example.

The committee proposes to make the lynching of George Armwood, the Princess Anne Negro, a "case history" on lynchings in this country. An effort will be made to elicit every bit of information, including why the State authorities failed to arrest the suspects.

Mr. Lane has in his possession a volume of evidence, which he has said pointed to the guilt of the four men arrested by the troops in a spectacular raid on the Eastern Shore county. It was Mr. Lane's plan to reveal this evidence at the hearing of charges against the men. But the day after their arrest the four were released on habeas corpus proceedings, without a hearing by the county court.

Since that time no opportunity has been given Mr. Lane to release the evidence in a place where it would be privileged matter. In justifying his own activities in the case, he is expected to refer to this evidence and the committee is expected to ask him to produce it.

Writers to Appear.

Among the witnesses scheduled to appear before the committee today are Heywood Broun, New York columnist; the Rev. Samuel M. Cavert, secretary of the Federal Council of Churches in America; Marc Connelly, playwright, representing the Writers League Against Lynching; Arthur Garfield Hays, prominent lawyer; Max Lowenthal, secretary to the Wickersham Law Enforcement Commission; Charles H. Tuttle, former United States attorney at New York; Dr. Charles H. Houston, dean of Howard University Law School, and Walter White, representing the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

A large number of witnesses also will appear from Tennessee, including several sociologists who have studied lynchings. The Maryland delegation will include several who witnessed the Princess Anne lynching. William Crawford, who witnessed a lynching at Clinton, S. C., also will testify.

BALTIMORE, MD.
MORNING SUN

FEB 16 1934

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBPŒNAES LANE

State's Attorney - General Asked To Testify On Lynching Bill

RITCHIE, ROLPH INVITED

Evidence In Princess Anne Case May Be Presented At Hearing Next Week

William Preston Lane, Jr., Attorney-General, yesterday was subpœnaed to appear next Wednesday before a subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, considering the anti-lynching bill.

Mr. Lane could not say whether the United States Senate committee desired his views on the pending Federal legislation or whether he would be requested to present evidence collected by his department in connection with the lynching last October of George Armwood, Negro, at Princess Anne. A grand jury investigation into the affair failed to result in any indictments.

Summons Served On Lane

The subpœna, issued by Senator Frederick Van Nuys (Dem., Ind.) was served upon Mr. Lane in his offices late yesterday. Both Governor Ritchie and Gov. James Rolph of California also have been invited to attend the hearings on the bill, introduced by Senator Edward P. Costigan (Dem., Col.), which will begin on February 20.

Although he would make no definite statement to the effect that he would like to present the evidence in the Princess Anne case before the Senate committee, Mr. Lane is understood to be anxious to make his disclosures public. The evidence is comprised chiefly of the testimony of State policemen present at the time a mob broke into the Princess Anne jail, dragged Armwood from his cell, lynched him and then set fire to his body.

Made Attempt Once

Mr. Lane attempted to have the policemen's testimony presented publicly in a magistrate's court, but was unsuccessful, the hearing being held in secret before a grand jury. Four men, named by Mr. Lane as participants in the lynching mob, were arrested by National Guardsmen dispatched to the scene by Governor Ritchie after State's Attorney John B. Robins had refused to take action against them. They were taken to Baltimore, but later released on habeas corpus proceedings.

Edgefield, S. C. Advertiser,
March 7, 1934

Controlling Lynching

Lynching is abhorrent. Right-minded citizens of America, everywhere, will feel that way about it. It represents a shameless prostitution of law and government.

Whether a Federal ordinance against this form of madness will prevent it, or even tone it down, is questionable.

And such a law will be presented to the present Congress. In fact hearings upon the Costigan-Wagner bill which would make lynching a Federal offense open this week.

That measure proposes, for one thing, a fine of $5,000 or imprisonment up to five years, or both, for any State or local official charged with the protection of prisoner and who fails "to make all diligent efforts" to protect him from injury at the hands of a mob.

Similarly harsh action would be taken against any official of government who is lax in the arrest or prosecution of any member of a lynching bee, and any county in which a lynching occurs will be subjected to a fine of $10,000.

One can observe at a glance that, for the most part, all of this is a mere agglomeration, and only adds to the provisions and measures which the majority of all the states have set in motion on their own account to handle this difficult problem.

It is just as commonplace to note also that if the processes of the laws of the states are ineffective in arriving at the objective in mind, so, also, will be the laws of the Federal government.

If jurors in state courts fall down on their job of taking proper measuse of those guilty of lynching crimes, jurors in Federal courts, who come from the same territory and share similar views, will have the same deficiency.

Southern Senators killed a similar measure in 1922 after it had passed the House. They used the filibuster and will probably use it again to defeat the new proposal. They took the position that the control of the lynching passion is a matter wholly for the states and that the Federal government ought to keep its hand off.

The elimination of this evil, as has been already clearly and effectively demonstrated, just as the elimination of many other crimes against law and order and society, does not lie altogether within the province of jurisprudence.

The reason the courts fall down in proper and efficient handling of this evil is because of the flabby sentiment among the people. Once that is set right, concerted in dynamic and determined motion against lynching, it can be blotted out.

But by laws alone—never!—The Charlotte Observer.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
TIMES

FEB 21 1934

SENATE INQUIRY GETS EASTERN SHORE LYNCHING DETAILS

MOB GIVEN AID BY OFFICIALS, SAYS PASTOR

Attorney General Lane Lists Names of Nine Suspects; Urges Federal Law

Names of nine men, suspected of participation in the Armwood lynching last November at Princess Anne, Md., were given to the Senate Judiciary subcommittee today by William Preston Lane, jr., attorney general for Maryland.

The attorney general said the identity of the men was learned from State troopers who fought with the mob before and after George Armwood, colored victim, was taken from the jail and hanged.

Former Jailer Named

The men whom Mr. Lane named are:

Marby L. ("Rusty") Heath, former jailer of Salisbury, Md.; William O. Hearn, of Salisbury; Irving Adkins, of Loretta, Md.; William H. Thompson, of Princess Anne; Jack Wallacker, also known as Sterling, of Crisfield, Md.; Sheldon Lester, of Salisbury; "Big Boy" Smith, prize fighter, of Salisbury; Martin Duer and a man named McQuay, addresses not given.

Mr. Lane told the subcommittee, holding hearings on the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill, that he was told that Wallacker was the leader of the mob and that Heath was seen pulling on the rope around the colored man's neck.

Hearn, he said, is believed to have thrown the rope over the tree limb and Duer was declared to have been seen with a rope in his hand.

Urges Legislation

The Maryland official said that any legislation to stamp out lynching would be highly commendable and suggested that the best solution to that end would be immediate removal of the prisoner to another locality.

Rev. Asbury Smith, of Baltimore, chairman of the Anti-lynching Federation, created a mild sensation when he testified that the people on the Eastern Shore believe lynching commendable. He said:

"Local officers deliberately exposed George Armwood to the danger of lynching. The State police failed to use adequate force to protect the prisoner. Since the lynching, local officials have used their power in office to protect rather than prosecute members of the mob.

"In Maryland, as in other States, local law has broken down in its attempt to punish lynchers. The citizens of Wicomico and Somerset counties, almost without exception, approve the lynching of Matthew Williams and George Armwood. They think lynching is commendable."

PROSECUTOR BARES LYNCHING DETAILS

G. C. ANDERSON W. P. LANE, JR.

W. P. LANE, JR., Attorney General for Maryland, today named nine men who allegedly participated in the Armwood lynching case last November at Princess Anne, Md. He testified before the Senate Judiciary subcommittee holding hearings on the Wagner-Costigan antilynching bill. Mr. Lane is shown with his assistant, G. C. Anderson, before the opening of the morning session of the subcommittee. Times Staff Photo.

Lynchings - 1934
Legislation Relating to.

4751

Columbia, S. C. Record
February 27, 1934

The One Answer.

Miss Elizabeth Yates Webb, professor of history at Vassar, and a daughter of a North Carolina federal judge, testified the other day before the senate judiciary committee in support of the pending federal anti-lynching bill.

"Personally," she said, taking up the state rights argument, "I'd rather see the federal government usurp some of the states' power than to have mobs do it. There are thousands of us who care so much that we are willing to accept help from any source."

And this, even though it begs the question as to whether the federal government's usurping of state power will actually prevent the mob's usurping it also—the federal government intervention in the little matter of liquor sales and manufacture did not abolish bootlegging—is a view to be reckoned with, as the Baltimore Sun, an opponent of the federal anti-lynching law, points out. It is the one argument for which deeds not words is the answer.

"If the states wish to avert further extension of federal authority into the domain of their sovereignty," The Sun declares, "they must demonstrate that they have the will and the power to prevent mobs from overriding laws and depriving citizens of the right of trial by jury."

And the first step in the demonstration must be the arrest, trial and conviction of lynchers. Kidnaping went into a decline when kidnapers began to find themselves facing the electric chair, the noose and prison. Lynching will become less popular when it becomes the custom rather than the exception to see lynchers tried and convicted.

◆

Advocates of the soldiers' bonus have urged their followers not to start another bonus march. Washington is cluttered up, already, with senate investigation witnesses.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
NEWS
FEB 22 1934

Senate Undecided on Calling 'Shore' Lynching Suspects

Communists Ask Chance to Speak; Ford Halted Before He Finishes Reading a Page

How far it should inquire into the lynching of a Negro on the Eastern Shore of Maryland as a clinical case bearing on the necessity of pending Federal anti-lynching legislation is being pondered by a Senate Judiciary sub-committee.

The names of nine men alleged to have participated in the lynching of George Armwood at Princess Anne last October, against whom a grand jury composed of neighbors refused to return indictments, were given to the committee yesterday by W. Preston Lane, Attorney General for Maryland.

Lane also turned over to the committee affidavits of eye-witnesses of the lynching, which were ignored by the grand jury.

UNCERTAIN ON SUBPOENAS

Chairman Van Nuys said he had not determined whether subpoenas would be issued for the nine men.

However, it is believed certain that a subpoena will be issued for Prosecutor Robins of Somerset County, who presented the case to the grand jury, and who was classed by every witness testifying on the Eastern Shore mob murder as one whose sympathies were with the lynchers.

The proponents' case in the anti-lynch bill hearings was concluded last night, after two full days of testimony wherein the details of practically every lynching since the turn of the century were retold.

GIVES TRAGIC RECITAL

Atty. Gen. Lane's testimony — a factual recital of how the inflamed mob overpowered Maryland state troopers to seize the prisoner and hang him and burn him—developed the tragic failure of state authorities to sustain the law in the face of hostile public opinion on the Eastern Shore.

Without saying he favored Federal anti-lynching legislation, Lane gave the committee the most convincing evidence it received on the need of such legislation.

James W. Ford, colored Communist candidate for Vice President at the last election, and Bernard Ades, International Labor Defense lawyer, were stopped late yesterday in their reading of what Sen. Van Nuys, and Sen. Deiterich called "Communistic utterances."

ASKED TO SPEAK

Both appeared before the sub-committee just as the hearing was about to close. They asked for a chance to speak, and were told that the gathering was a meeting of persons interested in passage of the Wagner-Costigan bill, and if their ideas were along this line, to go ahead.

Before Ford had read more than a page of a paper, he was told by Sen. Deiterich that everything he had said was opposed to the measure, and was therefore instructed to stop. He did, after a mild protest. Ades suffered the same fate, but injected a note of humor into the hearing when Sen. Deterich told him there were no Communistic members in Congress. He replied, "I think that's unfortunate."

A number of colored persons, leaders in various liberal organizations, said it was "unfortunate" that Ford and Ades spoke as long as they did.

LOWELL, MASS.
COURIER-CITIZEN
FEB 20 1934

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL.

Congress is about to take up again, after a lapse of years, the idea of making lynching a Federal offense. It is the old story of a law trying to make people behave when impulse is so strong to do the other thing. Lynchings are mob outbursts of anger and we doubt if any law that can be framed can be enforced with satisfactory completeness.

The Costigan-Wagner bill subjects to a fine up to $5000 or imprisonment up to five years, or both, any state or local official who is charged with the protection of an individual and who fails to make "all diligent efforts" to protect him from injury at the hands of a mob. A similar penalty is provided for any state or local official lax in his duties of arresting, jailing, or prosecuting any member of such mob. Also, the Federal court in the judicial district where mob violence occurs shall have jurisdiction to try, under the laws of the state concerned, any member of a lynching mob, but only if state officers are lax in prosecution, or jurors obtainable for a state court are opposed to punishment for the lynching.

Any county in which a person is killed by a mob shall be fined $10,000. This fine is to be levied by the Federal government, which is given the right to collect by property levy, mandamus, or other appropriate measures. In case the victim is seized in one county and put to death in another, each county is liable for the fine. If the victim has dependents, the fine is to go to them. Finally, if an alien guaranteed protection by treaty is injured in any state against the laws of that state, the crime becomes a Federal offense.

The Costigan-Wagner bill is almost identical with the Dyer anti-lynching bill which was introduced in Congress in 1921 and in succeeding sessions. The Dyer bill was passed by the House in January, 1922, by vote of 231 to 119. It was killed in the Senate by a filibuster of southern senators opposed to Federal intervention in what they considered a state problem. There was considerable doubt of the constitutionality of the measure even on the part of many of its supporters. The Costigan-Wagner bill, like the Dyer bill, attempts to meet the constitutional issue by rehearsing the constitutional guarantees of equal protection of the laws to all persons.

Many persons who abhor lynching doubt also the effectiveness of a Federal anti-lynching statute. They point out that most states now have anti-lynching laws of one sort or another, and that these laws do not prevent lynchings. Specifically, if jurors in a state court will not vote to convict members of a lynching mob, jurors in a Federal court of the judicial district concerned are likely to take the same attitude. Advocates of a Federal law point out that state laws may have at least minimized lynching, and they believe that a Federal law would be even more of a deterrent.

In the last decade, the number of lynchings showed, on the whole, a marked decline, with a record low in 1932. The year 1933, however, like 1930, showed an increase. Contrary to general belief, rape is not the chief cause of lynchings. In the 40-year period from 1889 to 1929, only one-sixth of the persons lynched were accused of rape; and if to this accusation be added attempted rape, the proportion is still less than one-fourth. More than one-third were accused of murder. It is interesting to note also that the proportion of lynchings has been considerably lower in the so-called Black Belt, where Negroes comprise more than one-half the population, than in counties with less than one-fourth Negro population.

LOWELL, MASS.
COURIER-CITIZEN
FEB 28 1934

MISLEADING STATISTICS.

Advocates of the anti-lynching bill before Congress are quite fond of citing as an argument for the necessity of such a law, the shocking past record of the country. The number of lynchings since statistics have been gathered runs into the thousands, but most of these were the result of post-Civil war conditions and therefore the record is for the most part abnormal. Undoubtedly the reconstruction measures or the manner in which they were received by the South—whichever way one prefers to state the matter—were responsible for a race situation which has hardly had a parallel anywhere in recent times. How many racial lyncnings—some of them having for victims white people who had been indiscreetly friendly to the colored people—took place between the close of the Civil war and 1885 can only be guessed. From 1885 on fairly accurate figures are available. In just under half a century there have been altogether well over 4000 lynchings.

In itself such a black history of disorder would seem fully to justify federal interference. The average for that period is over 80 illegal executions a year. But this is largely a story of past violence. The worst year was 1892, with 231 lynchings. The tendency was then downward for 15 years until 1907, which year witnessed a new low of 60. There progress stuck for 15 years more, the average being worse rather than better. For some reason there was a sharp drop in 1923, to 33, and even that number has never been reached since. The best record was that of 1932, when only eight persons met their death in this way.

In spite of a bad setback last year, there can be no question that the tendency, though not year by year, certainly decade by decade, is distinctly downward. The question then is whether it is wise to enact a federal law, thus interfering still further with local government, in order to attempt the eradication of an evil which the states are already dealing with, both through law and through the arousing of public sentiment, with increasing effectiveness.

NIONTOWN, PA.
EVENING GENIUS

FEB 19 1934

Proposed Anti-Lynching Bill

The Senate Judiciary committee is to open hearings February 20 on the Costigan-Wagner bill to make lynching a federal offense.

The Costigan-Wagner bill subjects to a fine up to $5,000 or imprisonment up to five years, or both, any state or local official who is charged with the protection of an individual and who fails to make "all diligent efforts" to protect him from injury at the hands of a mob. A similar penalty is provided for any state or local official lax in his duties of arresting, jailing, or prosecuting any member of such mob. Also, the federal court in the judicial district where mob violence occurs shall have jurisdiction to try, under the laws of the state concerned, any member of a lynching mob, but only if (1) state officers are lax in prosecution, or (2) jurors obtainable for a state court are opposed to punishment for the lynching.

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CANTON, O.
REPOSITORY

FEB 19 1934

There Ought To Be A Law.

Twelve years ago the house of representatives passed the Dyer anti-lynching bill by a vote of 231 to 119. The bill later was killed in the senate by a filibuster of southern senators, who opposed federal intervention in what they argued was a state problem.

The Dyer bill differed little from the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill on which hearings will be held this week. Opposition to it will be based on the same arguments, presumably. The real question is on the point of the federal government's right to intervene in a state function.

There is less disposition now to question that right than there was a decade ago. Federal influence has been increased vastly. There remains, however, a question outside the law which must be answered before the Costigan-Wagner bill can be indorsed.

Would it be effective in operation? A brief review of its provisions indicates the answer. It subjects to a fine of $5,000 or more or imprisonment up to five years, or both, any state or local official charged with protection of an individual who fails to make "all diligent efforts" to protect him from a mob. A similar penalty is provided for officials lax in their duties of arresting, jailing or prosecuting any member of a lynching mob.

The bill provides for a fine of $10,000 to be collected from any county in which a person is killed by a mob. In case the victim is seized in one county and murdered in another, each county is liable to fine. Also, it gives the federal court in whose district mob violence occurs jurisdiction to try, under laws of the state concerned, members of a lynching mob if state officers are lax in prosecution or if jurors are opposed to punishment for a lynching.

These are sharp teeth in the Costigan-Wagner bill. But would they be effective in dealing with actual lynching incidents? Would counties pay their fines, would officials submit to trial, would federal court juries dispense better justice than state courts? In short, would a federal anti-lynching law be any more effective than state anti-lynching laws, which experience has shown to be powerless to prevent lynching and of questionable value in punishing lynchers? Hearings on the Costigan-Wagner bill may convert a skeptical attitude into a hopeful one, but it is doubtful.

Lynchings - 1934
Legislation Relating to.

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PROVIDENCE, R. I.
BULLETIN
FEB 15 1934

SUPPORT IS ASKED FOR LYNCHING BILL

Eighth Ward Democrats Sign Petition Urging Punishment for Mob Action.

At a meeting last night the Eighth Ward Democratic Club members signed a petition to Congress asking for the passage of Senate bill No. 1978, which provides punishment for the crime of lynching.

The petition was drafted and signed after the club had received a communication from Eugene Perry Post, No. 332, Veterans of Foreign Wars, asking the club to support passage of the bill. Last night's meeting was held in the quarters of Sylvester S. Payne Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Potter's avenue and Dexter street. President John J. Monaghan presided.

N. Y. SUN
FEB 20 1934

ANTILYNCHING BILL SUPPORTED

Witnesses Urge It Strongly at Senate Hearing.

WAGNER IS FIRST SPEAKER

Rolph to Appear Against Measure Later—His Stand Assailed.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20 (A. P.).—Senator Wagner, Democrat, of New York, told the Senate Judiciary Committee today that "to advocate a real attack on lynching is to advocate a Federal law" against it. Senator Wagner was the first speaker at a hearing on the anti-lynching bill which he and Senator Costigan, Democrat, of Colorado, introduced.

Chairman McKellar, Democrat, of Tennessee, said Gov. Rolph of California would not appear this week before the committee.

"This hearing," he said, "is for proponents of the bill. We take it for granted that Gov. Rolph is against it, and he will have a chance later."

Senator McKellar said Gov. Ritchie of Maryland had been invited, but was unable to attend. Senator Wagner, in explaining the bill, said he had "no desire to supplant State action with Federal action," but said precisely those States suffering from lynchings were unable to help themselves.

Cites Fourteenth Amendment.

"Constitutional objections do not impress me," Senator Wagner added. He based the bill on authority to enforce the Fourteenth Amendment.

The claim that the abolition of lynching should be left to the States "overlooks the essential character of the problem," he said.

A State, he said, where lynchings occur thereby indicates its inability to prosecute those responsible for mob violence. The New Yorker said "No evil is greater than mob violence, there is no reform to which I am more committed."

Calling lynching a "moral relapse from which recovery is almost impossible," the Senator said "Only the merciful lynchers" were satisfied with killing. Forty-two persons were found alive out of 452 lynched between 1918 and 1934, he added.

Costigan, who followed Wagner on the stand, said "A tidal wave of resentment and indignation swept across America" when Gov. Rolph "sought to glorify in his jurisdiction preventable and typically barbarous lynchings of two white youths."

Walter White of the International Association for the Advancement of Colored People denied the "impression" that sex offense largely were responsible for lynchings. Out of 3,324 lynchings between 1889 and 1918, he said, only 523 cases involved such acts. He also quoted statistics to show the victims frequently were innocent, or guilty of crimes not involving the death penalty.

White said bitterness against lynchings is surging through Negroes who no longer are "the care-free, happy, laughing individuals" of the minstrel show. Negroes, he said, have not been affected greatly by radical propaganda because of the "ineptitude" of radical leaders and the Negroes' "mope for justice." Refusal to enact the bill, in view of the increase in lynchings during 1933, would demonstrate such a hope was "futile," he said.

Negroes Segregated At Senate Hearing on "Anti-Lynching" Bill

Ford Declares Jim-Crow Gov't Must Be Exposed to Hit at Lynching

Daily Worker
2-22-34
New York

Daily Worker Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Even while the Senate sub-committee and the Negro reformist leaders were going through the motion of a fight against lynching at the hearing on the Costigan-Wagner "anti-lynching" bill, Negroes were being ejected from the Senate restaurant yesterday afternoon.

One of the Negroes subjected to this degrading ejection and violation of their constitutional rights was Miss Mabel Byrd, well-known social worker. Miss Byrd went to the restaurant with two white women friends. The head waitress, a white Southerner, told them they could not be served. They protested. Police were then called to eject them from the restaurant. To all questions attendants in the restaurant told the press: "We've had orders to say nothing."

Miss Byrd had already suffered from the discriminatory policies of the "New Deal," when as a "Negro expert" for the NRA she was jim-crowed and later fired following her efforts to point out the discriminations against Negroes which the "New Deal" fosters. Miss Byrd attended the hearing as a press representative of the Baltimore "Afro-American."

Negroes Segregated at Hearing.

Seven Negro reporters, representing many papers and the Associated Negro Press, found one press table filled with white reporters when they entered the hearing room. They went to a second press table and sat down. A minor official of the Senate press gallery informed them the tables were reserved exclusivly for "members of the press gallery" and that they would have to leave. Several white reporters who do not belong to the press gallery were present, and many attend hearings generally. The Negro writers simply remained in their chairs through the morning session.

When the afternoon session began, a very small third table had been placed in the room, and the Negro writers were told they would have to sit there, segregated. A white newspaper correspondent asked whose orders this was and was told "the Superintendent of the Senate Office Building." The white reporter called this to the attention of Senator Van Nuys, presiding at the hearing. He said he didn't want that sort of thing going on but made no public statement concerning it.

The Negroes were completely segregated until the Daily Worker correspondent went and sat with them.

James W. Ford, representing the League of Struggle for Negro Rights denounced this segregation policy of the government declaring:

"To hit at lynching we must hit at its base—national oppression of the Negro people, Jim-Crowism, etc. To hit at lynching we must arouse and condemn the government which supports it. To hit at lynching we must build up mass action of both Negro and white workers around a struggle for equal rights for Negroes—for a bill of civil rights for Negroes."

Columbia, S. C.,
Record,
Feb. 19-1934

TASK AND OPPORTUNITY.

The United States senate judiciary committee will open hearings tomorrow on the Costigan-Wagner bill to make lynching a federal offense.

And the Costigan-Wagner bill is no half-way measure as anti-lynching bills go. There are as the saying is, teeth in it. It subjects to a fine up to $5,000 or imprisonment up to five years, or both, any state, country or local official who, charged with the protection of an individual, fails to make "all diligent efforts" to protect him from injury or death at the hands of a mob. A similar penalty is provided also for any state or local official lax in his duties of arresting, jailing or prosecuting lynchers.

Any county in which a person is killed by a mob shall, the bill further provides, be fined $10,000, the fine, incidentally, to be levied by the federal government, which would be given the right to collect by property levy, mandamus, or other appropriate measures. In case the victim is seized in one county and put to death in another, each county is to be held liable for the fine.

Finally, also, the federal court in the judicial district where mob violence occurs, is to have jurisdiction to try, under the laws of the state, any member of a lynching mob when state officers may be lax in prosecuting the state trial of the case or when jurors obtainable for a state court are opposed to punish for the lynching.

It would probably be too much to say of course that this bill will prevent lynching, or even that it will result in the punishment of lynchers. Final responsibility for the enforcement of federal laws, like all state laws, rests upon the jurors and federal juries, except for the fact that negroes are more often drawn for service on them than on state juries in some Southern states, are not greatly different from the state juries . Both reflect local opinion and both, as recent experience with federal prohibition demonstrates, may fall short upon occasion of exact justice and in very similar proportions. It might even, by arousing state animosities—it is such a nullification of state rights as to make the child labor amendment by comparison the product of John C. Calhoun's pen and brain; even the child labor amendment does not take away from the citizens of the state or county the right to sit in judgment on the officers who may be elected by their ballots—defeat its very purpose, making more difficult, not less, the conviction of the murderers who call themselves lynchers.

But despite the bill's deficiencies and dangeas—and they are real, not imaginary—there is trouble aplenty in it for state and county officers in lynching states. It will be the federal courts' job to determine when a county sheriff or a city policeman may not make "all diligent efforts" to protect a prisoner and their right to decide when any state or local official may be lax in arresting, jailing or prosecuting members of lynching mobs. And this even though it may not mean that any great number of sheriffs and what not will go to jail may mean that state and county officers, here and there, may be arrested and subjected to the indignity and publicity of federal trials.

And one section of the bill may even be expected to be literally enforced at the expense of the county taxpayers—this being of course the provision for a $10,000 fine to be assessed against the county in which a lynching may occur. Similar provisions of state law are enforced.

The non-committal decision of a Laurens county coroner's jury in its investigation of the death of Norris Dendy, negro, who was taken from the Clinton jail and beaten to death July 4 of last year, takes on something of more than local importance although its importance locally is not to underestimated. The jurors, as the news reports have it, heard testimony in which witnesses told how they had seen three or four men take the negro from the jail. The jurors apparently choose to doubt this testimony or to disagree with it and despite the witnesses' statements dismissed the killing as the work of "a party or parties unknown." But the slaying cannot be dismissed: somebody killed the negro Dendy, somebody took him from the Clinton jail. And somebody in Laurens county knows who the slayers were; these things are always known and the coroner's jury's might even, it seems, have discovered who did the killing. That is the purpose of coroner's inquests.

And Laurens county's responsibility doesn't end with the verdict. The county's responsibility, as in any other murder case, is to discover, arrest, convict and punish the slayers, whoever they may be. In this case of course the county and state have more than usual concern in the apprehension and conviction of the killers; Dendy when he was slain was a prisoner. The problem is unchanged by the know-nothing inquest verdict. The fact remains that a man was killed in Laurens county. And Laurens county cannot afford to let killings go unpunished; it cannot surrender either to mobs or to "unknown parties" except at grave risks. When orderly government surrenders no man's life is safe. It must go on with its investigations—for its own sake.

The one convincing argument against the passage of the Costigan-Wagner bill is that the states can do what no federal court can not do—if the state is actually desirous of doing something. Laurens has the opportunity to supply the demonstration.

SHREVEPORT, LA.
TIMES

FEB 21 1934

BEHIND THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Another piece of trick legislation drafted by reformers who think that the federal government is operated merely to serve their desires was launched on its way in Washington yesterday. We refer to the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, on which first hearings were held.

This is the bill which proposes to impose a fine of $5,000 or imprisonment up to five years, or both, upon any state or local official who fails to use diligence in protecting an individual from injury at the hands of a mob. A similar penalty is provided for officials lax in arresting, jailing or prosecuting any member of such mob.

Also, the bill proposes that the federal court in the judicial district where mob violence occurs shall have jurisdiction to try, under the laws of the state concerned, any member of a lynching mob if state officers are lax in prosecution or if jurors obtainable for a state court are opposed to punishment for the lynching.

Any county in which a person is killed by a mob would be fined $10,000 by the federal government, the money to be paid to the surviving relatives of the victim or, if there are no surviving relatives, to the federal government.

Readers who study the practical aspects of the bill's enforcement can readily see that the measure would not only create a hodge-podge of clashing authority. It would be a fertile source of violence against the federal government. And it would fan, rather than subdue, the flames of racial feeling which the measure is designed to suppress.

Other striking objections to the bill are apparent to anyone acquainted with the realities of human nature and local self-government. We feel, however, that there is one particular point which should receive stress now and throughout the entire discussion of the proposed legislation.

Claims that the bill is constitutional are founded upon the 14th amendment to the constitution, in which it is specified that no state shall deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws, and the 15th amendment, which declares that the rights of citizens shall not be abridged on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude.

Coupled with these claims is the fact that the bill is being vigorously supported by the American Civil Liberties Union, an organization of Communistic tinge which boldly opposes the standards of racial integrity which the South upholds. We think it is perfectly reasonable to conclude that these radicals regard the anti-lynching bill not just as a specific "reform," but as a first step in eradicating racial lines in this country, in keeping with Moscow's doctrines.

This should be kept in mind as the Costigan-Wagner bill moves forward in congress. The fight on the bill's many illogical features should be pressed relentlessly by the South's representatives. Indications now are that the bill will pass both houses. But intelligent, vigorous opposition could change the situation completely.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX.
NEWS

[illegible]

ANTI-LYNCHING CAMPAIGN

DURING the past eleven years the Federal Council of Churches has published an honor roll of States that had kept themselves free of the lynch-murder infamy during each 12 months. For a while that roll grew encouragingly from year to year, until civic leaders began to consider that the Nation might rid itself of this blot altogether. Unfortunately, a serious relapse has accompanied the years of economic stress—but as to whether this is cause and effect, opinions differ. The year 1933 was the worst since 1926. The evil appeared in 11 States, leaving only 37 on the Council's roll; and it claimed 28 victims.

California—original home of the Vigilantes, but free from mob "justice" since 1920—experienced a double lynching. That State suffered the greater shame when its Governor publicly praised the mob's act. North Carolina and Maryland—that had witnessed no such crimes for some years past—each reported a fresh outbreak. Such a turn is discouraging, indeed; but the Council can point to evidence of an awakening public conscience—the influence which can accomplish most toward doing away with this infamy. The Southern women's organization has lifted its voice vigorously in protest. The Southern leaders' educational commission is pursuing its fact-finding and publicity campaign. Though not likely to be enacted into law, the Costigan-Wagner Bill pending in Congress will create discussion and build anti-lynching sentiment.

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Anderson, S. C., Record
February 23, 1934

EFFECTIVE ANTI-LYNCHING LAW IS DEMANDED IN N. C.

Commission Records Unanimous Condemnation Mob Violence.

Raleigh, Feb. 20—Unanimous condemnation of mob violence, a demand for the enactment of effective anti-lynch laws and a request that the governor be empowered to remove without delay any public official who fails to give adequate protection to prisoners held for trial were embodied in a resolution adopted by the fifteenth annual conference of the North Carolina Commission on Interracial Cooperation, in session here February 15.

The conference further requested that provision be made to teach the public school children of the state to "abhor lynching." Gov. J. C. B. Ehringhaus was asked to embody the above requests and recommendations in a message to the next general assembly and to urge their enactment into law.

The committee which prepared the resolution setting forth the official views of the conference was composed of some of the most outstanding social workers in the state, including Dr. W. C. Jackson, of Durham, chairman; Mrs. W. T. Bost, state commissioner of public welfare; Mrs. Gurney Hood, wife of the state banking commissioner; D. S. G. Atkins, president of the State Teachers' college for Negroes at Winston-Salem, and Dr. Jades E Shepherd, president of the North Carolina College for Negroes in Durham.

Dr. Howard Odum ,of the University of North Carolina, president of the commission on interracial cooperation opened the conference with the declaration that the destinies of the white and negro races are so closely interwoven there naturally must exist a spirit of close cooperation if high ideals are to be achieved. Dr. Odum is an author and sociologist of national reputation.

Due to the fact that Governor Ehringhaus recently enlarged the commission's membership so as to include 1000 outstanding North Carolina citizens, of both races, the conference took on added significance. The attendance was the largest in the history of the present movement. One of the outstanding talks was that made by Dr. Roy M. Brown of the state university, in which he said that 10,000 tenant families east of Raleigh last year made no arangements with any landlord and secured no means of subsistence. Acreage reduction this year will increase the number, he said, adding that many destitute farmers of both races are pouring into the cities to increase the unemployment in these centers and augment the already burdened relief rolls.

Dr. Brown was followed by other speakers, who took up this subject in its various aspects and who strongly urged the rehabilitation of farms as a means of bringing about better conditions among the small farmers of both races. It was suggested that government aid be secured to aid farmers maintain and cultivate tracts of 20 or 25 acres to the family. It was also brought out that, in North Carolina, there are 80,000 white and 57,000 negro tenant farmers.

The address of Dr. J. W. Mitchell, president of the State Agricultural and Technical College for Negroes at Greensboro, expresed confidence that the federal government could be prevailed upon to establish subsistence homesteads in eastern North Carolina. He declared that no improvement can be expected under the existing "tenant system." What the farmers of both races need he emphasized, is to be "rehabilitatin "spirit and courage," as well as in an economic way."

Approving the recommendations along this line, the conference adopted a resolution indorsing the homestead project and calling upon North Carolina's delegation in the national congress to support the plan for subsistence farms which has been successful in what is known as the Bricks community, in Edgecomb county.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
POST
FEB 22 1934

Senate Hears

Eight Named As Lynchers

Maryland Powerless to Prosecute, Witness Tells Committee.

Men Identified, Says Lane; Freed With No Hearings.

By Franklyn Waltman, Jr.

Naming, for the first time, eight alleged participants in the Princess Anne lynching, W. Preston Lane, Maryland attorney general, yesterday admitted to a Senate Judiciary sub-committee that the State authorities were powerless to prosecute lynchers.

Lane told the committee, which is considering a Federal antilynching bill, that the eight men had been "positively identified" by various State police officers as being in the mob which, last October, dragged George Armwood, colored, from the Somerset County Jail, and lynched him.

The attorney general explained he laid evidence against the eight alleged participants before the county prosecutor, John S. Robbins, who failed to act. When State troops arrested four men and charged them with the lynching, he continued, the prisoners were released without hearings on writs of habeas corpus. He said there was nothing more he nor Gov. Ritchie could do.

Senator Van Nuys, chairman of the committee, said the committee would later discuss the feasibility of summoning as witnesses the eight men accused of participating in the lynching and the county officers named by Lane as refusing to act on the evidence he gathered.

Favors U. S. Legislation.

Lane declined to express an opinion on either the policy of Federal antilynching legislation or its Constitutionality, pleading he had not studied the pending Wagner-Costigan bill. But he said he favored any legislation which deterred lynchings or punished those responsible for them.

Simon E. Sobeloff, retiring United States Attorney for Maryland, said that under existing laws there was no justification for action against lynchers in the Federal courts. He favored the bill and thought that arguments against its Constitutionality could be surmounted.

Both witnesses agreed that in Maryland the prosecution of alleged lynchers was a matter exclusively for the county authorities, and that the latter were controlled by public sentiment, which, in many section due to prejudices, opposed efforts to prosecute lynchers.

Lane was praised by Senator Van Nuys as a public official "ready to do your duty regardless of public opinion." Senator Van Nuys said if lynching is in the ascendency, he thought public opinion responsible.

A number of other witnesses appeared to urge adoption of the Wagner-Costigan bill. There also appeared two avowed Communists, James W. Ford, Negro candidate for vice president of the Communist party, and Bernard Ades, Baltimore lawyer, who served as counsel recently for colored persons charged with serious crimes in that State.

Both were ordered from the witness stand by Senator Van Nuys when they persisted in making speeches, containing what the chairman called "Communist propaganda," instead of discussing the bill. Ades assailed the Ritchie administration in Maryland and charged the committee with protecting it.

Lane was on the witness stand a good part of the day. Much of his testimony was a recital of what happened in Maryland after the Princess Anne lynching. He laid before the committee copies of all correspondence, reports and documents bearing on the lynching and his investigation of it.

He read to the committee a "resume" of the evidence against the alleged lynchers, who he named as Shelburn Lester, a public utility employe in Salisbury, Md.; "Big Boy" Smith, a Salisbury prize fighter; William P. Hearn, a Salisbury truck contractor; Irving Adkins, a railroad track foreman living near Princess Anne; William H. Thompson, of Princess Anne; Jack Walloper, of Crisfield, Md.; Martin Duer, of Worcester County and Rusty Heath, former Salisbury jailer, living at Princess Anne.

The Rev. Asbury Smith, of Baltimore, told the committee that lynching is generally approved of on the Eastern Shore and that it was impossible to get local action. He approved provisions of the Wagner-Costigan bill which would penalize counties where lynchings occur and officers failing to do their duty.

Other witnesses heard were Samuel H. Calvert, secretary of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ; Elmer A. Carter, of the National Urban League; Miss Juanita E. Jackson, of the Young People's Forum of Baltimore; John Knox, chaplain of Fisk University, and Louis Azrael, associate editor of the Baltimore Post.

NEW YORK
WORLD —
Telegram
FEB 21 1934

PENALTY SNAGS LYNCHING BILL

Indemnities for Mob Victims Raise Controversies in Hearings of Senate.

By Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Whether a county in which a lynching occurs should be required to pay damages to the family of the victim—the Wagner-Costigan bill specifies payment of $10,000—is the principal point of dispute in the Senate subcommittee hearing on the proposed Federal Anti-Lynching law.

Senator Dieterich (D., Ill.) has pressed each witness favoring the bill to explain why it is necessary to impose "a penalty on innocent taxpayers."

Senator McCarran (D., Nev.) has questioned the constitutionality of the bill but both he and Senator Dieterich indicated that they would support some kind of federal legislation against lynching.

Wholehearted support of the bill as written was indicated by Senator Van Nuys (D., Ind.), chairman of the sub-committee, and Senator Kean (R., N. J.).

Proponents of the bill answered Senator Dieterich's objection by saying that it has been a rule of international law for fifty years that the family of a person killed lawlessly in a foreign country is entitled to a cash token from that country.

They also argued that only by providing a pecuniary motive can responsible taxpaying citizens of a community be provoked into active resistance against mobs.

"Let us make a lynching more expensive to a community than a trial," said Arthur Garfield Hays, counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
POST

FEB 21 1934

Marylanders Tell Lynching Story Today

Senators to Hold Court in Eastern Shore Mob Action.

By Franklin Waltman, Jr.

An unusual Congressional hearing will take place today when a Senate Judiciary sub-committee undertakes a minute inquiry to determine why the Maryland authorities failed to prosecute the persons who lynched George Armwood, Negro, at Princess Anne, last November.

As sovereign State officials, the Maryland authorities are not answerable to Congress and none could remember another incident where Congress undertook an investigation into purely State affairs. Although W. Preston Lane, Maryland attorney general, will appear under subpena, it is understood he will not resist the Senate probe.

The Senate committee's purpose is not to fix any blame for the failure to prosecute the Maryland lynchers, but rather to demonstrate the impotence of State authorities in the face of lynchings. The committee has decided to make a factual "case history" out of the Maryland affair to show the need for Federal legislation.

Populace Routed Troops

Mr. Lane is expected to tell the committee what he and Gov. Ritchie did last fall to bring to book those who hanged Armwood after dragging him from the county jail. Their action included the sending of State troops to Princess Anne to arrest nine suspects. The troops, after arresting four men, left the Eastern Shore when attacked by an angry populace.

It is understood that Mr. Lane is anxious to make public the evidence gathered by him against the nine alleged lynchers. It was his plan to make this public at a hearing on charges against the men, but he was unable to do so when the county court released the men, without hearings, on habeas corpus writs.

The committee will ask Mr. Lane for this evidence. The group now has under consideration summoning those named by Mr. Lane as participants in the lynching to appear before the committee and tell their side of the story. If this course is pursued, the Senate hearing would take on the aspects of a trial of the suspects, although there would be no formal verdict.

Sobeloff to Appear.

Another witness from Maryland appearing under subpena will be United States District Attorney Simon E. Sobeloff. The latter did not figure in the news of the lynching and the subsequent developments and it is not known what questions will be asked him.

The Judiciary sub-committee, under the chairmanship of Senator Frederick Van Nuys (Democrat), of Indiana, is holding hearings on the Wagner-Costigan Federal antilynching bill. This measure would impose a fine of $5,000 on any State or county law officer who failed to do his duty to protect prisoners or to prosecute lynchers.

Under the bill, any county where a person is lynched would be subject to a fine of $10,000, which may be recovered for the victim's family by suit in a United States court. Federal district courts also would be given jurisdiction to try lynchers.

Validity Questioned.

The sub-committee members expressed approval of the purposes of the bill at the hearing yesterday, although several indicated doubt that it would be Constitutional.

Both Senators Robert F. Wagner and Edward P. Costigan, authors of the bill, appeared before the committee yesterday and urged its enactment. Senator Costigan said there was no doubt of its constitutionality since the Constitution guaranteed to all citizens the equal protection of the laws.

Senator Wagner argued it was impossible to wipe out "the horrible stain of lynchings" on American civilization by State action. He said that "the very States that should do the most are in a position to do the least."

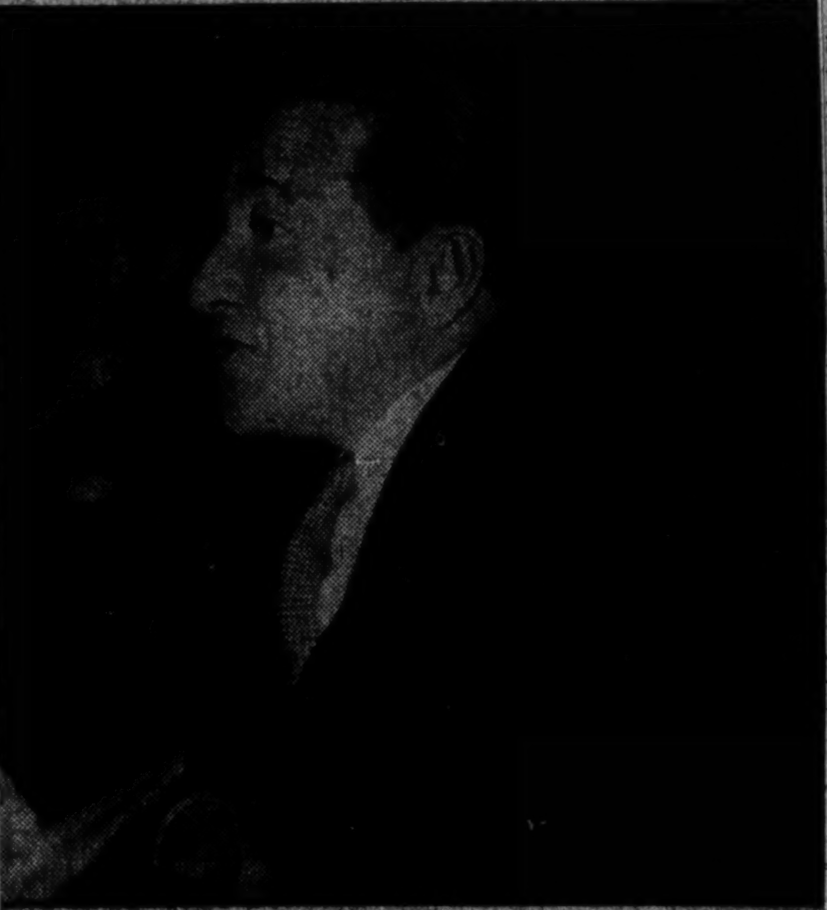
Gov. Rolph Denounced.

Senator Costigan denounced "the inactivity" of Gov. James Rolph in the recent San Jose, Calif., lynching, adding that it had sent "a tidal wave of resentment and indignation" across the Nation.

Others who urged approval of the bill were Arthur Garfield Hayes, liberal lawyer; Walter White, secretary of the Association for Advancement of Colored People; Dr. Charles H. Huston, dean of Howard University Law School; Marc Connelly, playwright, and Prof. Karl N. Llewellyn, of Columbia University Law School.

They cited the "criminality and brutality" of lynchings, their growth throughout the country, the causes of such crimes and the subsequent handling of the cases. Mr. Hayes said that while in Germany last summer protesting against persecution of Jews he was met everywhere with the question, "How about the lynching of Negroes in America?" He said it was a difficult question to meet.

Hayes Favors Anti-Lynching Bill



Wide World Photo.

ARTHUR GARFIELD HAYES,

of New York, general counsel for the Civil Liberties Union, as he appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee yesterday and testified in favor of the Wagner-Costigan Federal antilynching bill.

HIGH POINT, N. C.
ENTERPRISE

FEB 14 1934

MORE PRESSURE NEEDED

(Pitsburgh Courier)

Hearings on the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill will begin on February 15th. Governors Rolph and Ritchie have been invited to testify. Some of the leading constitutional lawyers will be on hand to declare the bill legally fool proof. Such distinguished writers as Fannie Hurst, Heywood Broun, Stuart Chase, Harry Hansen and Faith Baldwin, will give the bill their blessings and argue for its enactment into law. There will be outstanding Southern leaders to urge upon the Senators the necessity for such a law.

The white people are certainly rallying behind this new anti-lynching bill. Some of the editorial expressions in Southern newspapers are so favorable as to be astonishing. Papers in Georgia, Virginia, Florida, Texas and even in Mississippi have expressed themselves as desiring such a law.

It remains to be seen how Negroes are going to rally to the fight. The N. A. A. C. P. says it needs $5,000 to lobby this bill through Congress. The cost of transporting witnesses alone will take up a good part of such a fund. And unless a preponderance of favorable testimony can be mobilized at the hearings, the Senate Judiciary Committee is likely to report adversely on the bill. It costs money to put through any legislation of this kind which has so much opposition, especially when the legislation is designed to help Negroes. If Negroes do not put up the money, who will? And who else should be expected to put it up? Around 4,000 Negroes have been hanged, shot and burned by mobs in the last forty years. Here is a chance to put an end to it.

It seems to us that 12,000,000 Negroes should find no difficulty in contributing $5,000 to lobby an anti-lynching bill through Congress. Those who cannot give a dollar or so, can at least write to the senators and representatives from their State in Washington, urging the passage of the bill. That only costs three cents.

Lynchings-1934
Legislation Relating to.

4754

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
January 31, 1934

Enactment of Anti-Lynching Bill Is Urged

Dr. Alexander Says Measure Would Take Authority From Negligent Officers.

Federal Law Seen

Interracial Leader, on Visit Here, Says Tennessee on Trial for Recent Lynching.

Failure of Tennessee authorities to indict those responsible for the lynching of a Negro in Middle Tennessee recently has placed this State on trial, Dr. W. W. Alexander of Atlanta, executive secretary of the Committee on Interracial Cooperation, said here Tuesday. In fact, the interracial leader said, unless States throughout the country adopt a more vigorous attitude toward prosecution of lynchers, the Federal Government will be forced to step in with an antilynching law.

Dr. Alexander urged the adoption of State antilynching laws to prevent crimes of this kind from being perpetrated. He called attention to a model law on this subject that has been prepared by the University of North Carolina school of law. This law incorporates the best features of laws now on the statute books on the same subject.

Problem of Rural Slums.

"The chief difficulty that we have in the South is with backward communities," Dr. Alexander said. "You might call them rural slums. It is in these places where lynchings usually originate.

"I'm inclined to think that from our liquor situation and other things, we are developing in these rural sections types of criminals somewhat like the criminals that are to be found in the slums of the cities. In these types of communities, criminals are not disciplined by the communities themselves. When one of these things occurs, you have simply no sentiment for punishing the people responsible.

"The central thing in the law we propose is to give authority to the State to remove the trial of such cases, or to take the investigation out of the hands of the local officers and put it into the hands of the State authorities. The best interests of the State center on the backward areas when a thing of this kind occurs."

Dr. Alexander said that almost without exception, the Southern governments and other authorities are ready to take vigorous action, but that in most States, the authorities have very little power by which to go over the heads of "negligent and indifferent" local officers.

"I think that if we could get this antilynching law adopted, it would do more than anything else to prevent lynchings," Dr. Alexander said.

"Unless something is done to put the States in a position to become more vigorous in the prosecution of lynching cases, we will have a Federal antilynching law."

Racial Tension Lessened.

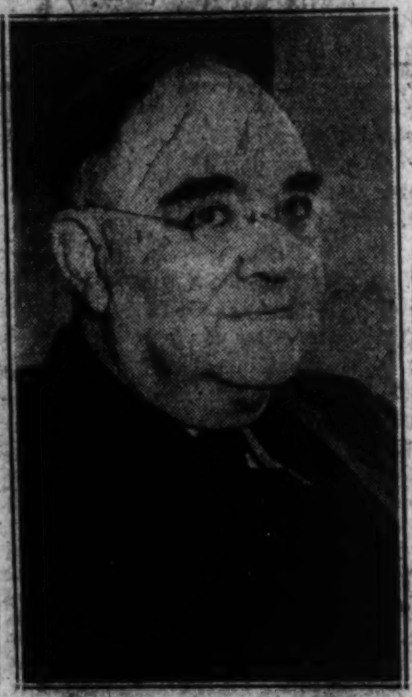
Dr. Alexander, who spent all of Tuesday here, is of the opinion that the racial tension in the South is somewhat lessened by the reduction of economic pressure and idleness. He explained that most lynchings come in rural sections when crops are laid by and the people are left with idle time on their hands. "The putting of a great many people to work by the NRA has greatly improved conditions," he stated.

Dr. Alexander said that a close search has failed to reveal any wide degree of replacement of Negroes by whites as a result of the NRA. He explained that there has been a gradual replacement over a long period of years in hotels, restaurants and other similar occupations. "The possibility that higher wages under the NRA would bring about the replacement of Negroes doesn't seem to be realized," he remarked.

The unemployed problem for the Negroes is greater in the North than the South, in the opinion of Dr. Alexander. "In the South the Negro has a traditional job, while in the North he has nothing of this kind and maintains a very tenuous hold upon whatever employment he chances to have," Dr. Alexander said.

Recognition by the United States Government of organized labor may prove the way for the Negro to enter union ranks heretofore denied him. He believes that when the Negro is allowed to enter the ranks of organized labor his economic status will be greatly improved.

Pays Visit Here



DR. W. W. ALEXANDER

Dr. Alexander, executive director of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, urged the adoption of State antilynching laws on a visit here Tuesday. Dr. Alexander's headquarters are in Atlanta.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
January 29, 1934

FOOLISH AND DANGEROUS

Several days ago there was introduced in Congress the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill. We reproduced its salient features and advised those who read them to write our representatives and senators a letter of protest.

For the bill is nothing less than outrageous.

For example: It provides that a fine of $10,000 shall be levied against any county in which a lynching takes place, the money to go to the heirs of the victim.

Thus, if a half dozen drunks kill a Negro, a bevy of Federal agents descend upon the community for investigation. They may or may not apprehend the guilty persons, but the county must fork over the fine of $10,000. Is it fair, logical, or even sensible for the preponderant majority of decent and law-abiding citizens to be penalized for the crimes of a few irresponsible idiots who very likely own no taxable property?

The Eagle wrote several of the Alabama delegation, including Vice President Garner.

Mr. Garner's secretary wrote a sunny little note expressing pleasure that we had presented our views.

Representative Steagall replied briefly that it was a pleasure to hear from us.

Senator John Bankhead never dodged the issue, and replied as follows: "I am bitterly opposed to the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, and will do everything in my power to defeat it."

Senator Black likewise replied: "I am opposed to the provision of the Costigan-Wagner bill which would levy a fine of $10,000 against the county where a lynching has occurred."

The remainder of the gentlemen have not yet answered.

President Roosevelt recently stated in a radio address that organized crime in this country must be broken up, including lynching and that lynching should not be condoned by any citizen, from the lowest to those occupying high positions. It was a direct rebuke to Governor Rolph.

In his personally-delivered message to this Congress, he again mentioned lynching. So it appears that he is behind the Costigan-Wagner bill.

This country, including the South, is solidly behind the Roosevelt administration. But if the President thinks the South will tolerate the vicious provisions of this bill, he has misjudged us.

Many of his measures are radical, but the people have welcomed them. The Costigan-Wagner bill, however, is something else again. It won't do, and we are sincerely hoping that Democrats of ability and courage will oppose it to the grim extent of a filibuster, if necessary.

The Lynching Bill

In the discussion of the Costigan-Wagner bill, southern newspapers are absolved from taking a provincial viewpoint because they oppose it. Commercial

Lynchings are not sectional. Much as they are to be deplored, they are the result of failure or lack of confidence in the administration of the law. As the law is enforced and applied speedily and adequately, lynching will disappear. Additional legislation will not remedy a situation where laws already in effect are not administered.

We do not need more laws, but a more rigid enforcement of the laws we have.

In most states the laws against kidnaping are adequate, but when the nation was aroused over the Lindbergh case Congress promptly passed a federal act. In Chicago last week a kidnaper was positively identified by his victim, and other evidence tended to show that there was no doubt about the guilt of those on trial. A few friendly jurors caused a hung jury and perhaps the case will be retried, and perhaps not.

The anti-lynching bill is sweeping in its application. It presumes the victim innocent of any crime against society; that those who take the law into their own hands are criminals, and law-enforcing officers of the county are co-conspirators.

Any officer or employe of the county or state who fails to protect a victim from a mob is guilty of a felony, under the provisions of the act, and shall be fined $5,000 or imprisoned five years or both.

Any officer who has a prisoner in his charge taken away from him and lynched shall be imprisoned for not less than five years, or for life.

The county in which a person is lynched shall forfeit $10,000 to the family of the victim. If the victim is transported from one county to another, both counties are liable.

Regardless of the fact that a citizen may be vigorously opposed to lynching and innocent of any knowledge concerning it, his property may be seized by the federal government for the benefit of the victim's family.

The proposed law is vicious in all of its aspects and an encouragement for the commission of crimes which usually provoke lynchings.

HARTFORD, CONN.
COURANT

FEB 5 1934

A LYNCHING STORY

"Wash," We Are Told, Is a Protest Against Mob Violence

To the Editor of The Courant:—

In 1933 the lynching of twenty-eight human beings by mobs challenged the citizens of the United States. This record has stirred the nation. The direct results have been an aroused public opinion, expressing itself in a statement issued by the Association of Southern White Women for the Prevention of Lynching, and the drafting of the Wagner-Costigan Anti-lynching Bill. The story "Wash," in the February Harper's is evidently the expression of a southern white man on lynching and its causes. William Faulkner, young Mississippi novelist, has written the tale.

It paints vividly the variations of atmosphere and color which distinguish the South and makes it the background of ceaseless tragedy. It is dramatically told, and with the statement issued by the Association of Southern White Women and the Wagner-Costigan Anti-lynching Bill stands as a finger pointing the way to American civilization. The story is worth reading not only because it is heart-gripping, and a model of craftsmanship, but because it is a contribution to the literature on mob-violence.

HELEN JAMES.

Saybrook, Jan. 30, 1934.

NEW YORK
WORLD
Telegram

FEB 5 1934

SENATE HEARINGS SET ON ANTI-LYNCH BILL

Van Nuys to Invite Rolph to Oppose Measure—Sees Filibuster as Only Obstacle.

By Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—Declaring that the national response to the move for a federal anti-lynching statute is amazing, Senator Van Nuys (D., Ind.) today promised hearings on the Costigan-Wagner bill for February 20 and 21.

Authors, sociologists, churchmen, clubwomen and public officials from all over the United States have offered to come to Washington to testify for the bill. In a later hearing for opponents, Senator Van Nuys will wire Governor Rolph of California inviting him to present his unique views in favor of lynch law.

"Only a filibuster or some similar legislative device can defeat the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill," said Senator Van Nuys today.

WASHINGTON, D. C
STAR

FEB 1 1934

GOVERNORS SUMMONED TO ANTI-LYNCH HEARING

Chairman Van Nuys Invites Ritchie and Rolph to Testify Before Judiciary Committee.

Chairman Van Nuys announced today that Govs. Ritchie of Maryland and Rolph of California would be invited to testify before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee considering the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill.

Van Nuys has called for hearings on the bill beginning February 15, when proponents of the legislation will testify.

He said he had not yet completed the list of witnesses to be invited, but would include Ritchie and Rolph.

These two Governors were recently placed in striking contrast in their attitude toward lynching. Rolph condoned a lynching in California about the same time Ritchie called out the militia to capture Maryland lynchers.

Van Nuys said many prominent individuals in the legal and journalistic fields would be called.

Oklahoma City, Okla.
OKLAHOMAN

JAN 30 1934

A Questionable Restraint

NO one should object to that provision of the Ford anti-lynching bill which would send lynchers to the penitentiary for life and would imprison for five years any sheriff who permits a mob to take a prisoner from his custody and lynch him. But many will object to the provision that a county in which a lynching has taken place shall be forced to pay $10,000. Such a fine would punish innocent citizens who have had nothing to do with the lynching and who have condemned it strongly. Moreover, such a fine would be no deterrent whatever to a mob. The evil spirit which has caused angry mobs to destroy hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of property would merely laugh at such a fine.

HOUSTON, TEX.
POST

FEB 5 1934

Coercing the States

FEDERAL coercion of the States is plainly intended in the anti-lynching bill introduced in the house by Representative Ford of California. Under the terms of the measure, prosecution of lynchers would devolve upon the Federal government if local authorities failed to act within thirty days after the commission of a lynching.

Other provisions in the bill include assessing a penalty of five years in prison against a sheriff who permits a prisoner to be lynched, and levying of a $10,000 fine upon the county in which a lynching occurs.

As a matter of principle, an attempt by the Federal government to coerce States into action is bad. It is violative of the doctrine of State's rights, and is a reversal of the theory that the Federal government is the agent of the States. In effect, the bill of Representative Ford tells the States what they shall do. If they disobey orders, the Federal government will step in and act where the State refused.

The principle involved in the Ford bill is different from that in which the Federal and State governments share in a responsibility or in carrying on an enterprise. Harry Hopkins, Federal Emergency Relief administrator, has been doing some plain and fancy coercing of States recently in the matter of securing State co-operation with the Federal government in providing relief for the unemployed and needy. Coercion of that sort is justifiable. The Federal government can not be expected to carry the whole burden of relief in a State. The Federal government is perfectly justified in demanding that a State share with it in providing relief funds, or suffer withdrawal of Federal funds.

For the Federal government as such to demand that States enact certain laws or enforce certain laws already on their statute books, and to invade the domain of the States if they fail to respond to the demand, is something else.

The thirty-day clause in the Ford bill is a confession that the measure is a violation of the principle of local self-government, and an invasion of the rights reserved to the States.

YOUNGSTOWN, O.
VINDICATOR

FEB 15 1934

Anti-Lynching Bill Is Adopted by House

The Ohio House of Representatives yesterday afternoon unanimously adopted the Gillespie-Haefner resolution urging a federal anti-lynching law.

Chester Gillespie and Earl Haefner, of Mahoning County, co-authors of this bill, stressed the need of more prompt, more effective administration of legal justice to curb the mob spirit.

The Lieut. Frederick Kahn Post No. 1423, through Commander Wallace T. Metcalfe, urged the enactment of an anti-lynching law in a letter of Representative Haefner as "a patriotic duty to all people."

This resolution will be sent to President Franklin Roosevelt, to Congressman John G. Cooper, Senator Robert J. Bulkley and Simeon D. Fess.

Lynchings-1934
Legislation Relating to.

4755

BALTIMORE, MD.
EVE. SUN

FEB 20 1934

Senators Plan To Call Lynch Suspects

LANE WILL GIVE SENATE DATA ON SHORE LYNCHING

Material Includes List Of Those Named As Suspects

COMMITTEE LIKELY TO CALL THESE LATER

Hearing On Wagner Bill Turns To Probe Of Maryland Case

Attorney-General William Preston Lane said this afternoon that he would take to Washington tomorrow all his records and correspondence in the investigation of the Armwood lynching and be prepared to open them for the inspection of the Senate committee.

The documents include the affadavits of State police who were overwhelmed by the lynchers, naming suspects in the mob, as well as the correspondence between the Attorney-General and the Somerset county authorities. Mr. Lane said he had no information that the committee contemplated calling these suspects as witnesses.

By Henry M. Hyde

Washington, Feb. 20—"Attorney-General William Preston Lane, of Maryland, who has been subpœnaed by our subcommittee," Senator Frederick Van Nuys (Dem., Ind.) announced late today, "has promised to bring with him tomorrow the evidence in the cases of the nine men who are suspected of complicity in the Princess Anne lynching on the Eastern Shore. That will be spread on the Senate record tomorrow.

"Later the committee will probably summon as witnesses the nine men who are under suspicion to tell their own stories of what happened."

With a large audience present, and the whole proceedings broadcast to the nation, hearings on the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill had begun today before a Judiciary subcommittee.

Tomorrow both Attorney-General Lane and Simon Sobeloff, recently United States Attorney in Baltimore will appear under subpœna from the Senate and will be called on to testify.

Tells Of Reward Offer

Members of the subcommittee conducting the hearing expressed themselves as favoring the bill, the only question raised being that of its constitutionality.

Father John T. Gillard, of Baltimore, vice-chairman of the Maryland Anti-Lynching League, presented a petition bearing the signatures of 5,000 citizens of Maryland. Demanding the passage of the bill and declaring that the signers would not support a candidate for public office who does not support the anti-lynching law.

One of the witnesses, Arthur Garfield Hays, said that the Civil Liberties Union, which he represents, offered a reward of $1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of members of the Princess Anne mob, but did not get a single bit of information in response.

Hays also declared that in most counties where lynching occurs the mob is either actively or passively supported by the so-called best element of the community, often including the public officials.

$10,000 Penalty Provided

The Wagner-Costigan bill, under consideration, does not attempt to punish members of a lynching mob.

It provides that the county in which a lynching occurs shall be penalized in the sum of $10,000, which shall go to the family of the victim. That penalty may be recovered by suit in the United States courts and shall be prosecuted by the United States attorney.

It is also provided that all Sheriffs or other public officers who do not use "diligent effort to protect the victims of mob violence to "apprehend members of the mob, may be punished by a fine not exceeding $5,000 or by five years' imprisonment.

If such officers have failed or refused to apprehend such members of a mob and if there is reason to think that the jurors in State courts are prejudiced in favor of mob violence, such cases may be tried in the United States District Courts.

It is on the financial penalty against he county in which a lynching occurs hat whitnesses regard as the most potent section of the proposed law.

Senators Frederick Van Nuys (Dem., nd.), William H. Dietrich (Dem., Ill.), George W. Norris (Rep., Neb.), Pat McCarren (Dem., Nev.) and Warren R. Austin (Rep., Vt.) constituted the ubcommittee.

Authors Of Bill There

In addition to the members of the ubcommittee, Senator Hamilton F. Kean (Rep., N. J.) and Senators Edward P. Costigan (Dem., Col.) and Robert F. Wagner (Dem., N. Y.), joint authors of the anti-lynching bill, stood behind the table as twenty photographs were snapped.

A couple of hundred spectators were present, including about fifty Negroes.

"Lynching is the worst assault against civilization," said Senator Wagner, in opening the hearing.

28 Lynchings Last Year

"Between 1918 and 1934 no less than 554 were lynched in the United States," went on Wagner. "Of this number 503 were Negroes. And of the 554 there were forty-two who were burned to death. In one case a wife and daughter were compelled to stand by and watch their husband and father burned at the stake.

"There were twenty-eight lynchings in 1933. Of this number fifteen were killed for minor offenses. There were two lynchings last month.

"It is urged that lynchings should be handled by the States. The answer is that it has been left to the States.

"The only serious attack against lynching must be made by a Federal law.

"Our bill provides for Federal action only when the States have failed. I believe its passage will stir the States to action.

"The only benefit of the depression is that it has brought into greafer prominence the great evils of our political life. The greatest of these is lynching."

Senator Costigan, co-author of the bill, followed Wagner.

"Late last November," he said, "a tidal wave of resentment and indignation swept across America when Governor Rolph of California publicly defended inaction by himself and other peace officers in that State, and, without proven knowledge of the guilt or innocence of the victims, sought to glorify in his jurisdiction preventable and typically barbarous lynchings of two white youths. In a flash our people's wrath, visioning the cumulative horror of two generations of such slaughter, spread from sea to sea. In its advance it submerged the law-evading technicalities of State lines.

Gives Statistics

"The criminality and ever-smoldering menace of this age-old evil has led to the joint submission to Congress by my able New York colleague, Senator Wagner, and by me of the carefully considered draft of today's proposed legislation.

"The bare statistical recital begins and should suffice to end the discussion. In 1933 twenty-eight human beings were lynched in the United States. In the lifetime of various persons present in this room the aggregate number of persons lynched in this country has been not less than 5,050, of whom at least 1,450 victims were white men and women and 3,600 Negroes. If one can mention, much less picture, such appalling facts without being sickened into permanent protest, he is, indeed, hardened beyond all sensibility to mercy. Such appenings destroy our claim to civilized life. They must not be permitted to multiply.

Demands Equal Protection

"One curative step lies in the direction of Federal anti-lynching legislation. With respect to its constitutionality, let it be merely said at this moment that we may confidently enact national remedies for such wrongs—promoted, as they are, with indifference or lawlessness by State agents in defiance of equal legal protection for those whose national citizenship is as undisputed as their State citizenship.

"These affirmations rest on living American principles, which, as they are applied or rejected, will make or mar history. One is that ours should be fundamentally a Government of equal laws and not of tyrannical men. Another, that justice to human beings—not to some, but to all—is the foremost concern of the State.

Looks To People

"The manner in which we practice those principles fixes our choice between democracy and despotism; between Washington and Lincoln on the one side and Hitler and Mussolini on the other.

"For these and other unanswerable reasons Senator Wagner and I are looking to the American people at the present session of Congress to throw the overwhelming weight of public opinion behind the prompt enactment of a Federal anti-lynching law."

In conclusion, Costigan quoted Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson and, finally, Franklin D. Roosevelt in denouncing lyching and calling for its suppression.

Walter White Called

The bill defines a mob as any assemblage of three or more persons, "acting in concert without authority of law," to kill or injure any person.

The Federal law will apply only when a state or community "neglect or fails" to afford protection against a mob.

The first witness was Walter White, secretary of the Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Denying the contention that assault on white women by Negroes is the usual cause of lynchings, White pointed out that from 1889 to 1918 "of 3,224 lynchings only 523 of the victims were even accused by the mobs themselves of rape. Of the 2,522 Negroes lynched during that period only 477 were charged with rape. Thus less than one-fifth of the colored men done to death by lynching mobs were even accused of 'the usual crime'."

Discusses Maryland Case

Turning to the customary assertion that "mob victims are morally guilty," the speaker quoted Southern white students of the evil in proof that "13 of 21 persons lynched in 1930 . . . were innocent victims of the mob's rage."

He then cited the impotence of the Maryland State authorities in the face of the Eastern Shore mob, the condoning of the San Jose lynchers by Governor Rolph of California, the inability of authorities to get sufficient evidence to convict indicted lynchers at St. Joseph, Mo., and the alleged connivance of law officers with the lynchers of Norris Dendy on last July 4 at Clinton, S. C. He charged "a complete breakdown of the machinery of government in preventing lynchings or punishing lynchers."

Calls Stand Insincere

During the filibuster against the Dyer anti-lynching bill in 1922, White declared, Southern Senators had declared that "the States themselves could suppress lynching," but since that time but one State in the deep South where most lynchings occur had enacted a State anti-lynching law. During the period, 1922-34, 28 whites and 249 Negroes have been lynched.

He held the "State's rights" argument to be insincere since it was never raised "when States seek financial aid for relief, public works, education and other boons from the Federal Government," but only when certain elements sought to impose their will on the weak.

White said only six States have passed anti-lynching laws since 1822, three of them Northern States, where lynchings are rare.

He said that dozens of leading Southern papers have recently come out editorially in favor of a Federal anti-lynching law, including an article by H. L. Mencken in *The Evening Sun*.

White declared that if this bill is passed, he was convinced that practically every State will take steps to prevent Federal action.

One unusual feature of the hearings is a press table entirely occupied by Negro newspaper reporters.

White, who is a dapper, little mulatto, read his testimony from typewritten pages.

Refers To State Laws

"Have not several States already passed laws providing a financial penalty on counties in which lynching occurs?" asked Chairman Van Nuys.

"Yes," said White.

"And these laws have been held constitutional?"

"Yes."

Senator Pat McCarran remarked that he was in grave doubt of the constitutionality of the proposed law.

"I favor the measure," he said, "but I fear it is not constitutional."

"There will be witnesses on the constitutionality of the bill," said Senator Costigan. "And in 1922, when the Dyer anti-lynching bill was before Congress, very able briefs were presented to show the constitutionality of a Federal bill."

Presents Statements

White presented statement from the Governors of Ohio, New Jersey, Florida, New York, Wisconsin, Utah, Colorado and North Dakota, all indorsing the bill.

Senator McCarran read a letter from William Allen White of Kansas, strongly favoring the bill.

Arthur Garfield Hays followed on the stand.

"Lynching occurs only against poor, friendless people," said Hays. "I was in Germany last summer. When the Jewish question was discussed, the Nazis always countered by asking "how about Negroes in the United States"? It was hard to answer.

Cites 14th Amendment

"In proportion to their comparative numbers in the population," said Hays, "about 96 per cent. of the victims of lynching are Negroes."

He declared that the Fourteenth Amendment—"No State may deny to any citizen the equal protection of its laws"—makes the proposed bill constitutional.

Senator McCarran interrupted to say that after a lynching has occurred, when the act has been completed, that clause, in his opinion, does not apply.

"But," said Hays, "the same amendment declares that Congress may pass legislation to enforce its provisions."

Not Repeated, He Says

Hays said that in States which have anti-lynching laws which provide a financial penalty against counties in which lynchings occur, in no case in which such a penalty has been inflicted has the same county ever had another lynching.

He went on to discuss cases of lynchings have been investigated by the Civil Liberties Union.

The union offered a reward of $1,000 for evidence leading to the arrest of members of the mob who lynched George Armwood at Princess Anne, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

"Though many of the members of the mob were generally known, not a single bit of evidence was brought to the attention of our investigators," said Hays.

"There have been four trials in the Scottsboro case," said Hays. "The public sentiment down there is that it has been a terrible expense to the county and that the nine men should have been lynched at once.

Sees Fine As Answer

"Put a financial penalty on a county that permits lynching," declared the witness, "and you have a good answer to people who raise the financial question."

"Mobs are stirred up by a low class of people," put in Senator Dieterich.

"How about the Governor of California," put in Hays.

"If you put me on the spot," replied Dieterich, "I'll reply that he was entirely wrong."

"Walter Smith, county attorney in Kentucky," went on Hays, "said that if the Civil Liberties Union tried to come into his county they would be treated like mad dogs. We were in fact not admitted to the county.

"Fascist Governments"

"We have in many parts of this country what is practically a Fascist Government," said Hays. "In most counties where lynching occurs the county officials either actively or passively support the mob."

"Put a financial penalty against any county in which lynching occurs—no matter whether or not there is official negligence—and every State," said Hays, "will do its best to stop lynchings."

"Should law-abiding taxpayers be penalized for such crimes?" asked Dieterich.

Senate Calm Upset

[From a Staff Correspondent]

Washington, Feb. 20—A small race disturbance marred the first sesion of the anti-lynching hearing today.

Just after the morning session of a Senate subcommittee two women appeared at the restaurant in the Senate office building.

One of the two was colored. The head waitress said later that there was no vacant table. The colored woman and her companion might have been seated at a table already partially occupied by white persons.

The head waitress asked the two to wait until a table was vacant. According to the testimony of the restaurant attendants and the police, the woman become noisy and even profane.

A Senate policeman was asked to escort her from the room. At that, the same witnesses say she became violent and struck the officer.

A plain clothes officer named Moriarity then took a hand, after the woman had cursed the uniformed man and knocked off his hat.

Moriarity escorted the woman to the office of the Senate police in the basement, where she fainted.

After being restored she left the building.

COLUMBUS, O.
CITIZEN
FEB 23 1934

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

LET the states do it, is the cry of opponents of the federal anti-lynching bill now under congressional hearings. The answer is that the state either cannot or will not protect citizens from lynch mobs. This is not a matter of argument or opinion. It is a fact—a brutal fact established by unhindered lynchings in every year of our national history.

The fundamental reason for the existence of an American government and Constitution is the protection of the rights of citizens. The right to life is basic. Any government which deliberately fails to protect that right has sacrificed its excuse for being.

This issue is neither sectional nor racial. In one of the worst recent cases the state was California and the victims were white. Of the 5058 known lynchings since 1882, whites have been the victims 1450 times. Ninety-four women have been lynched.

Rape is not the customary cause of lynching. The record shows that only 17 per cent of the victims were even accused of that crime by the lynchers themselves—and many of that 17 per cent were innocent.

Regarding the recent Tuscaloosa case, the investigator of the Southern Commission for the Study of Lynching reported: "One of the four mob victims was undoubtedly innocent, two others probably so, and the fourth possibly so."

In that case, as so often happens, local officials did not try to protect the victims and did not try to punish the culprits. Of course, in the San Jose case, Governor Rolph of California publicly encouraged lynching. On the other hand, when Governor Ritchie sent Maryland state troops to arrest alleged lynchers, the mob drove out the troops.

These are the type of hard facts behind the statement of President Roosevelt that lynching is one of the crimes which "have threatened our security." And, the president added:

> "These violations of ethics and these violations of law call on the strong arm of government for their immediate suppression; they call also on the country for an aroused public opinion."

Lynchings-1934
Legislation Relating to.

4756

[redacted]

Speaking Of Lynchers

By GERALD W. JOHNSON

THE hearings on the Federal anti-lynching bill in Washington are bringing out various phases of the lynching problem, but it is probable that one conspicuous element in these celebrations will not be stressed, because it does not come with the purview of lawmakers. This is the imbecility of lynchers as a class.

Yet it might be very plausibly argued that here is the head and front of this offending. What is the active element that makes lynching so poisonous? Certainly not the loss of life. In the last fifteen years only 554 persons have been knocked off by this method; in Maryland alone we dispose of half as many every year by the automobile route. Certainly not the mere illegality of it. Bootlegging, up to December 5, although just as illegal as lynching, was regarded with high favor all over the country. Hanging on to one's gold pieces is as illegal as lynching, but it is not only approved, but publicly praised by many people. The brutality of it? But a good many lynchings are not, from the victim's standpoint, particularly brutal—one swift blow on the head in the beginning, and he takes no further interest in the proceedings, or one revolver shot and he is finished. Yet the neatest of lynchings is objectionable. The fact that the victims are frequently, not to say usually, innocent of the crime charged against them? But the innocent suffer for the guilty every day of the week in every department of life.

There is one feature of lynching, however, which appertains to it in such high degree as to make it unique—it is the apotheosis of stupidity, the carnival of idiocy, the repudiation of brains and the enthronement of the empty skull. And the erection of the low-grade moron into a ruler is, after all, about the greatest crime that can be committed against the laws of God or man.

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IT didn't take the report of the Southern Commission on Lynching to teach any newspaper man in active practice in lynching States anything about who composes the ordinary mob. The reporters rarely have any difficulty in finding out who did it when a lynching is committed. The difficulty is not in discovering the identity of the lynchers, but in collecting and presenting legal proof of their identity; for knowing that certain men did the job and proving in open court that they did it are two very different propositions.

Long years before Salisbury and Princess Anne staged their recent civic pageants it fell within the scope of my professional duties to make some examination of half a dozen similar affairs not in Maryland. In every case it turned out that the mob was led by a notorious numskull. In one case it was a barber, a loud-mouthed blatherskite who used to gather all the heels and bums in the village in his shop and make tremendous orations to them after he had absorbed half a pint of raw corn. No man in his sober senses would have risked one Lincoln penny on that fellow's brain at any time. In another case, it was an ancient jailbird who had done a stretch in the penitentiary for a forgery so clumsily perpetrated that a country constable couldn't miss it. In another it was the town drunk, never very strong mentally and whose feeble brain had been practically destroyed by alcohol. In another, it was a farmer, father of a family of half-wits, and who had himself stood trial on a charge of incest.

And so it went. In every case the chivalrous defenders of Southern womanhood were the same sort of human garbage.

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THERE is nothing especially sinister in the fact that such creatures will perpetrate lynchings when the opportunity is presented. What else is to be expected of them?

But there is something very sinister in it when a community allows itself to be dominated by its idiots and imbeciles. Every community contains such elements, but in a healthy society they are held under the domination of the intelligent, and when they break out according to their natures they are swiftly and ruthlessly suppressed.

Suppose, though, that your community is in process of decay—what then? The first evidence that a community is decaying is presented when its brainier members, especially its more intelligent young men, begin to clear out and go to places where there is a better chance to get ahead in the world. The ivory-headed are, of course, the last to have wit enough to perceive the way things are going, and are, therefore, the slowest to move. As the process continues, the proportion of intelligent people in the whole population grows smaller and smaller. Eventually they become so few that they are no longer able to restrain the brainless, and various evil phenomena follow, lynching among them.

This explains why the Southern Commission found that every one of the thirty-odd lynchings it investigated had taken place in a community that was clearly on the downgrade. People who think don't lynch. And when a community is dominated by people who think, it isn't a lynching community. But a community that is clearly on the upgrade is obviously a community dominated by its thinking element, hence never a lynching community.

—o—

THESE considerations are what make the San José affair so extremely hard on California. The town of San José itself might be dismissed. It has been hard hit by the depression, steadily losing population and wealth—a decaying community, hence one where lynching might logically be expected.

But the terrific part of it is that the lynching was actually indorsed by the Governor of California, and this is *prima facie* evidence that what we have here is not merely a rotting community, but a rotting State. How else are we to account for the fact that such a man as Rolph is its Governor?

As a matter of fact, the Mooney case is evidence that there has been some putrefaction in California for sixteen years. It has doubtless been partially counterbalanced by the rush of sun-lovers to the State; but with the disappearance of prosperity, that rush has slackened in recent years, and evidently the processes of decay have proceeded at an accelerating pace. Now they have reached the point at which the Chief Executive of the State takes his stand with the senseless, witless and characterless.

Maryland, so far, has at least escaped that disgrace. The Governor of Maryland was not able to bring any lynchers to justice, thereby raising more than a suspicion of rottenness in our system of criminal justice; but if he couldn't defeat the lynchers, at least he didn't join them. The famous march of the Fifth Regiment into the lower Eastern Shore may not have accomplished much else, but at any rate it did serve to dispel suspicion that all Maryland is sinking in the scale of civilization. It gives us ground for maintaining before the world that our decaying spots are still fairly localized.

Perhaps this phase of the matter is not relevant to the inquiry in Washington. No sort of laws can do much toward preventing a community from decaying economically, socially and intellectually. But perhaps Federal legislation might do something toward preventing local decay from breaking out in this particularly bestial form.

[redacted]

A PERTINENT RETORT

Miss Elizabeth Yates Webb, daughter of a Federal judge in North Carolina and professor of history at Vassar, in her testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee on the anti-lynching bill, scored one good point against those (and *The Sun* is among them) who question the wisdom of empowering the Federal Government to enter this field. Saying "we have been taught in the South that State rights mean more than Federal rights," Miss Webb declared:

> Personally, I'd rather see the Federal Government usurp some of the States' power than to have mobs do it. There are thousands of us who care so much that we are willing to accept help from any source.

That is a view to be reckoned with. If the States wish to avert further extension of Federal authority into the domain of their sovereignty, they must demonstrate that they have the will and the power to prevent mobs from overriding laws and depriving citizens of the right of trial by jury.

[redacted]

There Ought To Be a Law.

Twelve years ago the house of representatives passed the Dyer anti-lynching bill by a vote of 321 to 119. The bill later was killed in the senate by a filibuster of southern senators, who opposed federal intervention in what they argued was a state problem.

The Dyer bill differed little from the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill on which hearings will be held this week. Opposition to it will be based on the same arguments, presumably. The real question is on the point of the federal government's right to intervene in a state function.

There is less disposition now to question that right than there was a decade ago. Federal influence has been increased vastly. There remains, however, a question outside the law which must be answered before the Costigan-Wagner bill can be indorsed.

Would it be effective in operation? A brief review of its provisions indicates the answer. It subjects to a fine of $5,000 or more or imprisonment up to five years, or both, any state or local official charged with protection of an individual who fails to make "all diligent efforts" to protect him from a mob. A similar penalty is provided for officials lax in their duties of arresting, jailing or prosecuting any member of a lynching mob.

The bill provides for a fine of $10,000 to be collected from any county in which a person is killed by a mob. In case the victim is seized in one county and murdered in another, each county is liable to fine. Also, it gives the federal court in whose district mob violence occurs jurisdiction to try, under laws of the state concerned, members of a lynching mob if state officers are lax in prosecution or if jurors are opposed to punishment for a lynching.

These are sharp teeth in the Costigan-Wagner bill. But would they be effective in dealing with actual lynching incidents? Would counties pay their fines, would officials submit to trial, would federal court juries dispense better justice than state courts? In short, would a federal anti-lynching law be any more effective than state anti-lynching laws, which experience has shown to be powerless to prevent lynching and of questionable value in punishing lynchers? Hearings on the Costigan-Wagner bill may convert a skeptical attitude into a hopeful one, but it is doubtful.

NEW YORK
[redacted] WORLD — Telegram

FEB 24 1934

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL.

LET the States do it is the cry of the opponents of the federal anti-lynching bill now under Congressional hearings. The answer is that the States either cannot or will not protect citizens from lynch mobs. This is not a matter of argument or opinion. It is a fact—a brutal fact established by unhindered lynchings in every year of our national history.

The fundamental reason for the existence of an American government and constitution is the protection of the rights of citizens. The right to life is basic. Any government which deliberately fails to protect that right has sacrificed its excuse for being.

The issue is neither sectional nor racial. In one of the worst recent cases the State was California and the victims were white. Of the 5,053 known lynchings since 1882, whites have been the victims 1,450 times. Ninety-four women have been lynched.

Rape is not the customary cause of lynching. The record shows that only 17 per cent of the victims were even accused of that crime by the lynchers themselves—and many of that 17 per cent were innocent.

Regarding the recent Tuscaloosa case, the investigator of the Southern Commission for the Study of Lynching reported:—"One of the four mob victims was undoubtedly innocent, two others probably so, and the fourth possibly so."

In that case, as so often happens, local officials did not try to protect the victims and did not try to punish the culprits. Of course in the San Jose case Governor Rolph publicly encouraged lynching. On the other hand, when Governor Ritchie sent Maryland State troops to arrest alleged lynchers, the mob drove out the troops.

These are the type of hard facts behind the statement of President Roosevelt that lynching is one of the crimes which "have threatened our security" and, the President added:—

"These violations of ethics and these violations of law call on the strong arm of government for their immediate suppression; they call also on the country for an aroused public opinion."

BALTIMORE, MD.
POST

FEB 27 1934

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

LET THE STATES do it, is the cry of opponents of the federal anti-lynching bill now under congressional hearings, at which Marylanders are prominent. The answer is that the states either cannot or will not protect citizens from lynch mobs. This is not a matter of argument or opinion. It is a fact—a brutal fact established by unhindered lynchings in every year of our national history.

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NEW HAVEN, CONN.
JOURNAL COURIER

FEB 21 19[illegible]

Lynch Law And States' Rights.

The Costigan-Wagner bill, now pending at Washington, is an excellent commentary on the classical states' rights-federalism debate which has troubled the nation since Jefferson and Hamilton. The states' righters are often prone to assume there is an aggressive federalism at the capital eager to gobble up the privileges reserved in the constitutional compact to the original sovereignties which are the states. That is undoubtedly true in many cases, but that is not always the influential force in what actual federal advances there have been.

We have discussed before now how untrue it is, for instance, in the matter of relief. The federal government has advanced in this field to a point incredible to us only a year ago. The CCC, the CWA, the direct grants to municipal relief agencies of federal relief funds, the foods and commodities made available by the government's price-regulation experiments, all these are quite unprecedented in our history. But no states' righter has arisen to denounce them. No municipality feels its self-determination impugned by the offer of these aids. The fact is they were needed and accepted gladly.

Now the Costigan-Wagner bill has similarities to this. For it is a measure to bring lynching within the scope of federal power. In effect it would reduce none of the rights of the states; it simply would proceed where they might not. The arguments in defense of it are plausible. Not the most devoted states' righter will defend the right to condone lynch law as one of the proud attributes of sovereignty. Moreover, the guilt for these outrages cannot be narrowly concentrated in the states. It widens to include the nation in the eyes of the world.

Every American would prefer, of course, that the states perform the full function of preserving law and order. Not a sober observer but regrets the lynch excesses; not a patriot but regards the Rolphs of the country with chagrin. Yet we want to preserve states' rights, too; we want to keep away from centralization if we can. The point is, it is up to the states, it is up to states' righters to show that we can. The Costigan-Wagner bill, and we cite it merely as a typical example, does not proceed from external pressure; it proceeds from internal collapse.

Columbia, S. C. Record
February 26, 1934

BEYOND REACH OF CONGRESS.

William Preston Lane, attorney general of Maryland, who made an unsuccessful attempt to persuade Princess Anne, scene of the Maryland lynching, to take some action to punish its lynchers and ended up by discovering that little or nothing could be done about lynchings unless local public opinion has been aroused against them, points out one thing that ought to be remembered in all discussions of the pending Wagner-Costigan federal anti-lynching bill.

"The federal bill, like most anti-lynching bills," he said, "is a punitive matter that becomes effective after somebody is lynched."

It seeks to punish lynching counties and to penalize state and county officers who permit lynchings; it aims at punishing lynchers.

And lynchers should of course be punished like other murderers. And state and county officers, who fail to perform the duties and live up to the obligations they assumed when they took office, should also be punished.

But what is needed more than this is something that will prevent lynchings before they happen; the victim of a lynching mob may be, as many have been, innocent and it doesn't help him very much to know that the lynching county may be fined $10,000 or that the sheriff who might have prevented the lynching but did not may be tried and, when and if convicted, punished for his neglect. And this no federal anti-lynching law can do. It is beyond the reach of congress and can be accomplished only by building up local respect for law and order and by encouraging local responsibility—the worst thing about lynchings is that generally they reflect local feeling.

And a law, making lynching a federal crime and the punishment of lynchers a federal responsibility, may tend to undermine rather than strengthen local opposition to lynching; that is the great danger in it.

There is no danger however in making punishment for all crimes more certain, so eliminating one of the excuses for lynching.

◆

Harvey Bailey, notorious kidnaper, has gone on a hunger strike in Leavenworth. There's one man who doesn't insist the world owes him a living.

Lynchings - 1934

Legislation Relating to

4757

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
February 23, 1934

Lynching And Federal Action

Thoughtful Southerners will watch with mixed feelings the hearings now being held by a Senate judiciary subcommittee on the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill. There can be little doubt touching the seriousness of this movement to make lynching a federal offense. And that is something which believers in local responsibility and states' rights can scarcely contemplate with equanimity. On the other hand, if, as seems likely, the committee goes into the George Armwood case, which finally led to open defiance of state authorities by the courts and people of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the lynching evil will have been presented to the attention of the country in all its shocking significance.

Other attempts to make lynching a federal crime have come from sources which the South could consider prejudiced or hostile. That is not true in this instance. For both Wagner and Costigan are Democrats, and neither is under any obligation to press a proposal aimed at this section with malice prepense. Not only is this to be borne in mind, but the juncture at which the legislation is being urged is important. It comes upon the heels of the dreadful affair at San Jose, Calif., and it has the implied approval of the president himself.

The measure provides for the punishment of state officers who permit lynchings they can prevent and for the payment of indemnities to the families of victims. According to Senator Wagner, "the bill involves no desire to supplant state action with federal action or the removal from the states of their primary responsibility for the protection of their citizenry—it provides for federal action only where the state has failed." Whatever the senator's desire or purpose may be, the effect of such legislation is to give lynching a federal character, and to that extent remove the need for local zeal in moving against the mob.

Whatever may be the immediate fate of the Wagner-Costigan proposal, the thing which must be borne in mind in the South is that ultimately some such legislation will be adopted at Washington unless a very radical change will have been registered in conditions in this section. Let the increase in lynchings continue, let the record of 1933 be repeated, let local authorities fail or refuse to indict and punish lynchers, and federal intervention is certain to come. That much is written in the stars.

There is another way of facing this danger. Obviously, state laws against lynching need to be strengthened. By holding officers to a stiffer obligation and by placing on counties in which lynchings occur the burden of paying indemnities, the situation is likely to be materially improved. If this looks like tracking Messrs. Wagner and Costigan, it can also be regarded as proving the sincerity and courage of people who contend for the right of the state to solve this problem.

Knoxville, Tenn., News-Sentinel
February 21, 1934

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

LET THE states do it, is the cry of opponents of the federal anti-lynching bill now under congressional hearings.

The answer is that the states either cannot or will not protect citizens from lynch mobs. This is not a matter of argument or opinion. It is a fact—a brutal fact established by unhindered lynchings in every year of our national history.

The fundamental reason for the existence of an American government and Constitution is the protection of the rights of citizens. The right to life is basic. Any government which deliberately fails to protect that right has sacrificed its excuse for being.

This issue is neither sectional nor racial. In one of the worst recent cases the state was California and the victims were white. Here in Tennessee last year two lynch victims were white. Of the 5053 known lynchings since 1882, whites have been the victims 1450 times. Ninety-four women have been lynched.

Rape is not the customary cause of lynching. The record shows that only 17 per cent of the victims were even accused of that crime by the lynchers themselves—and many of that 17 per cent were innocent.

Regarding the recent Tuscaloosa case, the investigator of the Southern Commission for the Study of Lynching, reported: "One of the four mob victims was undoubtedly innocent, two others probably so, and the fourth possibly so."

In that case, as so often happens, local officials did not try to protect the victims and did not try to punish the culprits. Of course in the San Jose case, Governor Rolph publicly encouraged lynching. On the other hand when Governor Ritchie sent Maryland state troops to arrest alleged lynchers, the mob drove out the troops.

These are the type of hard facts behind the statement of President Roosevelt that lynching is one of the crimes which "have threatened our security." And, the President added:

"These violations of ethics and these violations of law call on the strong arm of government for their immediate suppression; they call also on the country for an aroused public opinion."

BUFFALO, N. Y.
TIMES

FEB 21 1934

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

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PINE BLUFF, ARK.
COMMERCIAL

[illegible] 1934

LEAVE IT TO STATES

Scripps-Howard newspapers are making a concerted drive for the enactment of a federal antilynching law. They have had a lot to say about resolutions adopted in Atlanta by the Conference of Southern White Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

Admitting that the convention did not indorse the pending Wagner-Costigan bill, the New York World-Telegram says: "There is argument for such a measure in the conference's statement," and adds: "The federal antilynching bill does not deprive localities of an opportunity to preserve constitutional rights to their citizens. It merely arms the federal government with the right to step in and punish lynchers and cowardly officials when localities have failed."

The Cleveland Press declares that "the Dixie gentlemen who have been lynching black men stand condemned by the very flower of womanhood they have pretended to protect." These newspapers unfortunately are erroneously assuming that the various organizations in the South that are working for the elimination of lynching sprang up overnight for the purpose of securing the passage of a federal antilynching law. On the contrary, there are numerous organizations in the South devoting themselves to the improvement of racial relations and reduction of crime with long years of service and a record of achievement to their credit.

People of the South were engaged in this enterprise before there was any suggestion of federal laws on the subject. The South has made progress in this direction. It has made progress through its own initiative and notwithstanding outside interference, which is more harmful than helpful.

We cannot agree that the indictment of all officials where lynchings have occurred as cowards is correct. In many instances officers who have their prisoners taken from them by mobs are no more cowardly than prison officials who lose their prisoners through outside aid in prison breaks.

The reference of the Cleveland Press to the "Dixie gentlemen who have been lynching black men" would leave the impression that all white men in the South are either actual or potential lynchers. There is no more sentiment in the South for lynching than there is in California, Maryland or Missouri.

The Commercial Appeal has protested against lynching for many years, along with other representative southern newspapers.

Long after the name of the victim is forgotten, if it was ever known, the gruesome details of lynchings are vivid and the record stands as a blot upon the name of the community where it occurs. Notwithstanding our opposition to lynching, we oppose the intervention of the federal government in the administration of criminal laws as presumptuous and in violation of the constitutional rights of states.

—Commercial Appeal.

Columbia, S. C. Record
February 22, 1934

It Can Be Passed.

The Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, hearings on which are now being held at Washington, may be to some South Carolinians just something they are talking about in Washington where many things are talked about that do not happen.

They should not however, if they are opposed to the anti-lynching bill, delude themselves with the thought that plans to make lynching a federal offense, punishable in the federal courts, and laxity in the prosecution of lynchers a crime will end with the talking.

For one thing there has been a sort of lynching renaissance. In the last decade the number of lynchings showed on the whole a marked decline with a record low in 1932. The year 1933, however, like 1930 showed an increase. And support of federal anti-lynching bills increases in direct proportion as lynchings increase. Every unpunished lyncher, every slaying of a prisoner by "a party or parties unknown" is an argument for it. Some of the opponents of federal anti-lynching laws have even been converted by the 1933 record of state surrender to the mob. There is, for example, the Atlanta Constitution, now ready to grasp at the hope that a federal law making lynching a national offense would have "a strong deterrent effect upon those inclined to place authority of the mob above that of the courts."

Nor should it be forgotten how near the Dyer anti-lynching bill, the model for the Costigan-Wagner measure, came to enactment in 1922. The Dyer bill was not even defeated by votes. It passed the house by a majority of 231 to 119 and was killed in the senate by a filibuster of Southern senators. Brought to a vote it might have passed the senate.

And the Costigan-Wagner bill may be passed. It cannot be defeated by talk and the only effective argument against it is the demonstration that the states, left to themselves, can arrest, convict and punish lynchers. What are state rights if they are mob rights?

◆

By ordering all German women to wear uniforms, Hitler will get them to quit their jobs faster than if he had fired them.

Solons Debate $10,000 Fine For Counties in Lynchings

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—(AP)—Whether counties in which lynchings occur should be penalized by a $10,000 fine became a subject of debate today in the hearing on the Wagner-Costigan bill which would impose such a fine.

Senator Dietrich, democrat, Illinois, questioned the wisdom of imposing such a fine. He pointed out that it might, as now worded, be so construed as to fine a county [illegible] a gangster slaying that occurred within it.

Arthur Garfield Hays, a New York lawyer, and Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, agreed that it would be better to change that section of the bill than to risk rejection of the entire measure.

But Karl N. Llewellyn, professor of law at Columbia University, said the fine was "the heart of the bill," and that "even should an injustice be done to a county the imposition of a fine or two would bring us back to the downward trend (in lynchings)."

Later Llewellyn agreed that he would consider carefully a possible amendment restricting definitions of violence to slaying of persons charged with a crime, or taken from the authorities.

Charles H. Houston, dean of the Howard University school of law, said if the bill were not passed attempts to convince negroes they would obtain "justice would be futile." He said there was danger that negroes in time of war would be unwilling to serve in the armed forces.

At the conclusion of today's hearing Chairman Van Nuys, democrat, Indiana, told newspapermen his subcommittee would consider tomorrow whether to issue subpoenas on those named by the attorney-general of Maryland, W. Preston Lane Sr., as participants in the lynching last year of George Armwood in Princess Anne county.

Lane has been subpoenaed to appear tomorrow with all his records.

Van Nuys said the committee also would consider the issuance of subpoenas on witnesses in the San Jose and Missouri lynchings, which likewise had brought no grand jury action.

Governor Rolph, of California, will be invited to appear with opponents of the bill, Van Nuys said.

Knoxville, Tenn., News-Sentinel
February 22, 1934

LYNCHING CASE NAMES GIVEN

Nine Suspects From Maryland Eastern Shore May Be Called By Senate Committee.

By Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22—How far it should inquire into the lynching of a negro on the Eastern shore of Maryland as a clinical case bearing on the necessity of pending federal anti-lynching legislation is being pondered by a Judiciary subcommittee of the Senate.

The names of nine men alleged to have participated in the lynching of George Armwood last October, against whom a grand jury composed of neighbors refused to return indictments, were given to the committee yesterday by W. Preston Lane, attorney general for Maryland. Mr. Lane also turned over affidavits of eyewitnesses of the lynching, which were ignored by the grand jury.

Chairman Van Nuys said he had not determined whether subpenas would be issued for the nine men. He said, however, that they would either be subpenaed or invited to appear before the committee voluntarily. However, it is believed certain that a subpena will be issued for Prosecutor Robins of Somerset County, who presented the case to the grand jury, and who was classed by every witness testifying on the Eastern Shore mob murder as one whose sympathies were with the lynchers.

The proponents' case in the anti-lynch bill hearings was concluded last night.

Lynchings - 1934
Legislation Relating to.

4758

Anti-Lynching Bill In Congress Is Silent On the Death Penalty

N.A.A.C.P. Leaders Seek to Strengthen Legalistic Illusions Among Masses

This is the second of two articles by Harry Haywood on the reformist anti-lynching bills introduced in the present Congress, and particularly on the Costigan-Wagner bill sponsored by the reformist N.A.A.C.P. leadership. The first appeared in Saturday's "Daily Worker."

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II.

By HARRY HAYWOOD

Daily Worker
2-20-34
New York
N.Y.

While all other murders are punishable by death, there is no demand for the death penalty against lynchers in the Costigan (and other "anti-lynching" bills now before Congress. This omission is significant. Lynch murder is clearly not regarded as a captal crime by the sponsors of these bills. Is this not an obvious concession to the lynchers? Is this not proof of the hypocrisy of the sponsors of these so called "anti-lynching" bills?

While thus protecting the lynchers from the death penalty, the Costigan Bill (sponsored by the N. A A. C. P. leadershp) offers the relatives of the lynch-victims the illusion of securing damages from the authorities. It provides that they may bring suit for $10,000 against the county or counties in which the lynching occurred. This is supposed to penalize these communities and to increase the vigilance of the local governments against lynching. Here it is sufficient to point out that a similar law exists in West Virginia. Its ineffectiveness is shown by what happened when such a suit was brought before the courts of that State. The suit was "won," but when the county officials announced they had no funds appropriated "for such a purpose," the courts readily accepted this excuse, and no payment was ever made of the indemnity.

This, of course, merely confirms the fact that any legislation, even the most "perfect," having seriously as its purpose the bettering of the conditions of the masses, means nothing if it does not have organized around it a militant mass movement of Negro and white toilers to force its enamctment. Without organized mass pressure, any bill in the hands of the administrators of bourgeois law will be used against the masses and in the interests of the oppressors.

So-Called Anti-Lynch Law

In the statutes of the states where lynching is most common, where violators of every basic right of the people is most flagrant, there are laws supposedly guaranteeing these rights. For example, there are anti-lynching laws in eight Southern states in which lynchings have mounted year by year. It is clear that these bills are not for the purpose they proclaim, but are used by the authorities to divert the masses from militant struggle against lynching by fostering illusions in the courts and other instruments of the lynchers. Even in the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to the U. S. Constitution, which supposedly provide guarantees for the civil rights of the Negro people, have now become weapons in the hands of the ruling class against Negro masses and the entire working class, because these amendments are used to hide the role of the national government as the oppressors of the Negro people, by fostering illusions in the federal institutions. These amendments, so far as the masses are concerned, have become mere shibboleths in the mouths of demagogs, who constantly prate of the guarantees they supposedly give to the constitutional rights of the Negro people, and shift responsibility for their violation from the national government to the various states.

It is clear that the fight against lynching must be directed against the national government as the instrument of the oppressers and lynchers of the Negro people. Any point of view which fosters the lie of impartiality on the part of the government (and precisely this, is the point of view behind these reformist proposals) strengthens the hand of the lynchers.

Why Such Feverish Activity

But the question raised now is why these feverish activities of the reformists and imperialist politicians around the issue of lynching at the present time, since these bills are obviously not in the interests of the Negro masses and the working class? Then in whose interest are they? These questions can only be answered in the light of recent developments in the mass fight against lynching.

In recent months the wave of lynching has grown tremendously, against the background of the crisis of capitalism and the sharpening offensive against the white and Negro toiling masses. The savage lynch terror has evoked the wildest indignation among the masses, bringing home to them the necessity for a militant struggle against lynching. This wide-spread indignation is being crystallized in mass protest actions of white and Negro workers and intellectuals. This movement is increasingly coming under the leadership of the Communist Party and the whole revolutionary movement, as it becomes more and more clear to ever widening sections of the toilers that the revolutionary movement is the only force conducting a real fight against lynching and for national liberation of the Negro people. In this process, a united front of Negro and white toilers is being forged in the struggle. White toilers are beginning to see that behind the brutal chauvinist attacks against Negroes, fascist reaction is mobilizing its forces not only against the Negroes, but against the entire working class.

The introduction of these bills can only be understood in the light of this developing mass anti-lynching movement. The bills are introduced in a new attempt by the Negro bourgeois reformists and the social-fascists to split up and crush the real fight of the Negro and white masses against lynching, to divert the indignation of the masses into harmless legalistic channels.

At a time when the masses are rapidly shedding their illusions in the capitalist courts as a result of the bitter experiences of Scottsboro and other cases; when the authority of bourgeois law and order is being undermined, and are seeking solution of their burning problems in revolutionary mass action outside of the bourgeois courts and legislative bodies, the gentlemen of the N. A A. C. P., the leaders of the Socialist Party, the liberals, true to their role as the defenders of imperialist oppression, etc., all come forward to the aid of the ruling class with proposals for new laws as the only "solution."

This, in effect, is a new campaign to deceive the masses, to disarm their vigilance in the face of increasing fascist lynch terror, and wreck the rapidly rising militant movement on the shoals of bourgeois legalism. At the same time, the N.A.A.C.P. leadership and reformists generally, whose prestige has been shaken in the course of the mass movement led by the Communist Party and revolutionary organizations, seek by this demagogic gesture to place themselves again at the head of the movement in order to betray it. Is it surprising then, that in this maneuver, the reformists are receiving the widest support of reactionary elements,—in the proposed introduction of the bill by a Southern congressman; the wide publicity in the capitalist press; and support and endorsement by large sections of the Southern bourgeoisie?

Action Against Lynching

Our task is to expose the reactionary nature of these maneuvers. This can be done not only by criticism of these bills and their authors, but must be accompanied by a more energetic carryng through of our positive program against lynching and Negro oppression. Against these reformist maneuvers we must counterpose our revolutionary program of joint action by Negro and white toilers against the lynchers and national oppression.

We must make clear that we are not opposed to the introduction of bills, petitions and other parliamentary methods. On the contrary, we stand for the maximum utilization of all constitutional methods, realizing, however, that these can only play a supplementary role and must be subordinated to organized action of the masses outside of the boundaries of the courts and bourgeois legislative bodies and be directed to broadening out such actions. Only in this manner, can a really effective fight against lynching be conducted.

These efforts on the part of the bourgeoisie and their agents must be answered by renewed and more energetic activities in the development of the mass movement against lynching and against the sharpening oppression of the Negro masses. The movement against lynching and for the general demands of the Negro masses must be connected more intimately with the every-day economic demands of the Negro and white toilers, in the shops, factories, mines, fields, and in the field of unemployment. Especially is it necessary to bring forward more energetically than heretofore the issues raised as a result of the increasing oppression of Negroes under the N.R.A.; discrimination in N.R.A. codes; C.W.A. jobs; on relief jobs; and relief generally.

At the same time, we must carry through the widest mass agitation around the Bill of Civil Rights for the Negro People, sponsored by the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, and obtain millions of signatures demanding its passage and enforcement, and secure endorsements of the bill by all possible organizations of white and Negro toilers.

J. W. FORD

Denied the right to speak on Anti-Lynching Bill today before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
February 21, 1934

WOULD PLACE FINE ON COUNTIES THAT STAGE LYNCHINGS

Washington, Feb. 20 (AP).—Whether counties in which lynchings occur should be penalized by a $10,000 fine became a subject of debate today in the hearing on the Wagner-Costigan bill which would impose such a fine.

Senator Dietrich (Democrat) Illinois, questioned the wisdom of imposing such a fine. He pointed out that it might, as now worded, be so construed as to fine a country for a gangster slaying that occurred with-

Arthur Garfield Hays, a New York lawyer, and Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People agreed that it would be better to change the section of the bill than to risk rejection of the entire measure.

Ford Flays Lynchers Despite Heckling By Senators at Hearing

Daily Worker 2-22-34

Declares Bill Gives New Weapon to Lynchers and Strike-Breakers

BY MARGUERITE YOUNG

(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—James W. Ford, representative of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, gained the opportunity to testify by registering a dramatic demand for it in the Senate Sub-committee's hearing on the Costigan-Wagner "anti-lynching" bill, but was forced to leave the witness stand before he concluded by Senators objecting to the "radical" tinge of his views.

Speaking over continual, bitterly provocative interruptions by Senator Dietrich of Illinois, Ford attacked the bill's definition of a "mob" and declared it would be used against strikers and anti-lynching demonstrations. He assailed the bill for its complete avoidance of the question of legal lynchings.

"What do you mean?" Dietrich exploded. "What do you mean—legal lynchings?"

"I mean frame-ups," Ford returned. "Frame-ups, as in the Scottsboro case."

Forced Senate Committee to Hear Him

As the last half-hour of the hearing arrived, Ford, who had been promised an opportunity to speak but had been denied it during two days of hearings, walked forward as a witness concluded in the large hearing room, and said: "I understand this is the final session of this hearing. I have come here to speak for the League for Struggle for Negro Rights, and I demand that I be allowed to do so."

Senator Van Nuys of Indiana, Chairman of the Sub-Committee stood up, nettled, and the hearing room became tensely silent.

"I've told you we'd give you an opportunity to testify. Here's a lady who wants to speak," Van Nuys said.

"I've been here waiting for two days. Is it not possible to hear me in the next half hour?" asked Ford.

"We'll try," Van Nuys said, and called the white woman witness. However, when she finished, Van Nuys called Ford.

Senator Dietrich, assuming a belligerent attitude from the outset, asked Ford to state categorically, 'Are you for or against this bill?"

"We favor any anti-lynching legislation, but——"

"Proceed," Van Nuys interrupted.

Ford Constantly Interrupted

"We must view the present lynching wave in the background of the economic crisis," Ford began. "Never before has there been such a crisis. Capitalism starves millions—suicides are on the increase—the standards of the working people everywhere are being attacked. Every proposal of the government has brought no relief. The proposals of the new deal of President Roosevelt on the contrary have brought increasing unemployment——"

"What has that to do with crime prevention," Dietrich asked and added, his face reddening, his agitation mounting, "this isn't a political forum. We're here to get information on why this bill should be passed."

Dietrich Catechizes Ford

"I'm trying to show you the background," Ford said. Whereupon Dietrich asked in rapid-fire order questions making a little dossier on Ford of whom apparently Dietrich hadn't heard. Dietrich looked particularly interested when Ford said he had lived in Chicago, Ill., as well as New York and Alabama. Asked what "societies" he belonged to, Ford, still completely calm, replied, "the Communist Party and the League for Struggle for Negro Rights."

"Are you here to further your Communistic ideas?" Dietrich thundered, and a few in the tense audience smiled, as Ford replied, "I'm here to talk about the bill."

Bill Legalizes Lynching, Ford Declares

Dietrich then warned, "I'm going to object to his testifying because he casts a reflection on law-abiding people," and Van Nuys chimed in, "Objection sustained." Ford continued with his testimony, however, listing his criticism of the bill specifically. He declared the definition of a mob in the bill was "so worded as to be able to be used to legalize the murder of Negroes." He was giving an example of how the bill might be employed against Negro sharecroppers who organized to defend their homes, when Dietrich again interrupted. "I object," and Van Nuys announced, "You'll have to leave." Ford did this—but not without saying, 'You will remember, gentlemen, that Walter White, of the National Association for the Advanced of Colored People warned you yesterday that Communists and radicals are gaining influence."

Ford's testimony came after another witness in the person of S. E. Sobiloff, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, had admitted that the bill "might be used.. against labor in labor disputes."

The Committee, of course, heard that respectable witness with all deference.

Chauvinism Pervades Hearing

Jim Crowism, chauvinism, anti-labor sentiment pervaded the hearing today as yesterday. One of the District of Columbia's red squad was on guard—though Dietrich didn't explain the connection between that and the "anti-lynching" inquiry in the most formal and calm of proceedings. The red-squad did hover over the table at which the Negro correspondents sat—alone as a race until your correspondent sat with them, whereafter one gained the courage to go and sit at the white correspondents' table. He was unmolested—but only because the ejection of a Negro writer from a Senate restaurant and the Jim Crowing in the very room of the hearing had stirred much comment from Negroes in the audience.

Reformist Applaud Maryland Lynch Official

The Committee today heard a Maryland official for the first time actually publicly name nine lynch-leaders of the Eastern Shore, Maryland, mob that murdered George Armwood, Negro. W. Preston Lane Maryland Attorney-General, named the lynchers. Asked whether "there could be any connection between this Armwood lynching and the Euel Lee case," Lane replied with a vague affirmative.

Bernard Ades, who defended Euel Lee throughout the long proceedings before Negro-less juries in Maryland, was here to testify for the International Labor Defense, but so far has not been given the opportunity to do so. His prepared statement attacks Governor Ritchie and Attorney General Lane for their deliberate evasion in Maryland lynchings, and declares, "You cannot abolish lynching unless you change the policy of the government... unless you abolish Jim-Crowism and all discriminations against the Negro People, for it is out of these stinking remnants of slavery that lynching is able to arise."

James W. Ford, Negro Communist leader, who spoke at the Senate Committee hearing today on the Costigan anti-lynching bill.

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
February 6, 1934

The Lynching Bill

In the discussion of the Costigan-Wagner bill, southern newspapers are absolved from taking a provincial viewpoint because they oppose it.

Lynchings are not sectional. Much as they are to be deplored, they are the result of failure or lack of confidence in the administration of the law. As the law is enforced and applied speedily and adequately lynching will disappear. Additional legislation will not remedy a situation where laws already in effect are not administered.

We do not need more laws, but a more rigid enforcement of the laws we have.

In most states the laws against kidnaping are adequate, but when the nation was aroused over the Lindbergh case Congress promptly passed a federal act. In Chicago last week a kidnaper was positively identified by his victim, and other evidence tended to show that there was no doubt about the guilt of those on trial. A few friendly jurors caused a hung jury and perhaps the case will be retried, and perhaps not.

The anti-lynching bill is sweeping in its application. It presumes the victim innocent of any crime against society; that those who take the law into their own hands are criminals, and law-enforcing officers of the county are co-conspirators.

Any officer or employe of the county or state who fails to protect a victim from a mob is guilty of a felony, under the provisions of the act, and shall be fined $5,000 or imprisoned five years or both.

Any officer who has a prisoner in his charge taken away from him and lynched shall be imprisoned for not less than five years, or for life.

The county in which a person is lynched shall forfeit $10,000 to the family of the victim. If the victim is transported from one county to another, both counties are liable.

Regardless of the fact that a citizen may be vigorously opposed to lynching and innocent of any knowledge concerning it, his property may be seized by the federal government for the benefit of the victim's family.

The proposed law is vicious in all of its aspects and an encouragement for the commission of crimes which usually provoke lynchings.

Bill for Curbing Lynching Debated

~~Macon Telegraph~~

Fine for Counties Challenged by Illinois Man

Macon 2/21/34

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Senator Dietrich (D., Ill., questioned the wisdom of imposing such a fine. He pointed out that it might, as now worded, be so construed as to fine a county for a gangster slaying that occurred within it.

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But Karl N. Llewellyn, professor of law at Columbia university, said the fine was "the heart of the bill," and that "even should an injustice be done to a county the imposition of a fine or two would bring us back to the downward trend (in lynching)."

Later Llewellyn agreed that he would consider carefully a possible amendment restricting definitions of violence to slaying of persons charged with a crime, or taken from the authorities.

Lynchings - 1934
Legislation Relating to.

4759

SENATE SUMMONS LOOMS FOR EIGHT IN LYNCHING PROBE

Constitution
2-22-34

Men Accused in Maryland Case May Be Called To Testify Before Congressional Group.

Atlanta, Ga.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—(AP)—Eight men named today as participants in the lynching of George Armwood, negro, in Princess Anne, Md., last autumn may be called as witnesses by the senate judiciary subcommittee considering the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill.

At the conclusion of a two-day hearing of proponents of the measure, Senator Van Nuys, democrat, Indiana, chairman, said tonight he would consult with the other members on the desirability of summoning the eight alleged lynchers and officials of the eastern shore of Maryland who were charged at the hearing with neglect of duty.

The names of the eight men were given the committee by W. Preston Lane, attorney-general of Maryland, who said their identities were vouched for in affidavits by police and others who saw Armwood taken by force from the Princess Anne jail and hanged.

Those named by Lane were:

Shelburn Lester, Meter Reader, "Big Boy" Smith, pugilist, and William P. Hearn, truckman, all of Salisbury; Irving Adkins, of Loretta, truck foreman on the Pennsylvania railroad; William H. Thompson, of Princess Anne; Jack Walloper, of Cristfield, reported to be known as Jack Sterling, Jackson Sterling and Randolph Sterling; Martin Duer, of Pocomoke or Snow Hill, and "Rusty" Heath, a former jailer of Salisbury, reported to be known also as Morby L. Heath.

Three of those named, Thompson, Adkins and Hearn, were arrested and brought to Baltimore after state authorities stepped in, but were released when the grand jury failed to indict.

As today's session neared its close two witnesses were ordered off the witness stand by Van Nuys on the ground they were taking advantage of the hearing to disseminate "communist propaganda."

They were Bernard L. Ades, Baltimore attorney, engaged by the international labor defense to defend Euel Lee, Maryland negro charged with murdering an Eastern Shore family, and James W. Ford, New York negro and one-time communist candidate for vice president, who appeared as a representative of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights.

Ford, who said he favored federal anti-lynching legislation, but opposed the Costigan-Wagner bill because it was "so worded as to legalize murder of negroes by landlords" and contained no provision against "legal or courtroom lynching, such as the Scottsboro case," was discharged as a witness after a sharp debate with committee members during which Senator Dieterich, democrat, Illinois, said his appearance was "a reflection on the law-abiding colored people."

[redacted]

Senate Debates $10,000 Lynch Fine on Counties

Dietrich Holds Clause Would Include Gangster Slayings

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Senator William H. Dietrich, Democrat, of Illinois, questioned the wisdom of imposing the fine. He pointed out that it might, as now worded, be so construed as to fine a county for a gangster slaying that occurred within it.

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At the conclusion of today's hearing Chairman Frederick van Nuys, Democrat, of Indiana, told newspapermen that his committee would consider tomorrow whether to issue subpoenas on those named by the Attorney General of Maryland, W. Preston Lane jr., as participants in the lynching last year of George Armwood in Princess Anne County. Lane has been subpoenaed to appear with all his records.

URGE FEDERAL LAW TO STOP LYNCHINGS

Wagner and Costigan Maintain Bill, Penalizing State Officials, Is Needful.

Times

FINE ON COUNTIES DEBATED

2-21-34

Senate Committee May Subpoena Witnesses in Maryland, California and Missouri Outrages.

New York

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—The need of Federal action to prevent lynchings was emphasized today at a hearing before a sub-committee of the Senate Judiciary Committee on the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill which provides for punishment of State officers who allow a lynching and for the payment of a $10,000 indemnity to the family of the victim.

Senator Wagner, whose advocacy of his bill was carried over a hook-up of the National Broadcasting Company, said:

"Of the 542 people lynched between 1918 and 1928, forty-two were burned alive and another thirty-two were subjected to treatment equally ghastly. Only the merciful lyncher is satisfied to drag a victim from his home and riddle his body with bullets.

"Not many years ago a wife and daughter were forced to stand and watch their husband and father being burned at the stake. Lynching is aimed at a single group. We cannot blink the fact that of the 554 people lynched between 1918 and 1934, 503 were Negroes.

"Stigma Must Be Removed."

"There are thousands of people, swept into the current of frenzy of the moment, who suffered a moral relapse from which recovery is almost impossible. Lynching is a stigma upon our nation which must be removed if we are to achieve our own high ideal and avoid the scorn of enlightened countries.

"It is clear that the bill involves no desire to supplant State action with Federal action or the removal from the States of their primary responsibility for protection of their citizenry. It provides for Federal action only where the State has failed."

Senator Costigan declared the total number of persons lynched in the lifetime of many of those at the hearing was not less than 5,050 of whom 3,600 were Negroes. He referred to the lynching of two kidnappers in San José, saying:

"Late last November a tidal wave of sentiment and indignation swept across America when Governor Rolph of California publicly defended inaction by himself and other peace officers in that State. In a flash our people's wrath, visioning the cumulative horror of two generations on such slaughter, spread from sea to sea."

"No man touched by the limitations of this world can be permitted to disregard the safeguards of fair trial and to usurp the combined functions of prosecutor, judge, juror and executioner of his fellowmen."

Arthur Garfield Hays of New York held that, if the proposed law had to do with lynchers themselves, it would be illegal, but that it would apply to Sheriffs, other State authorities and officers who failed to give equal protection under the law.

"Obviously," he said, "lynching occurs against poor, helpless, friendless persons. If they had, as victims, people of another class, it would have a different outcome."

Others heard were Walter White, secretary, and Arthur B. Spingarn of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Professor Albert E. Barnett of Scarrit College; Miss Elizabeth Eastman of the Young Women's Christian Association, and Miss Elizabeth Yates, instructor in history at Vassar.

While the hearing was going on a number of Negroes of both sexes were barred from the lunch room in the Senate office building on the ground that the room was too full. Mable Byrd, formerly employed by the NRA, and an unidentified negress, who insisted upon their rights to enter, were ejected by the police. This led to a formal protest by James W. Ford, head of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights.

Fine on Counties Opposed.

By The Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 20.—Whether counties in which lynchings occur should be penalized by a $10,000 fine was a subject of debate today in the hearing on the Wagner-Costigan bill which would impose such a fine.

Senator Dietrich, Democrat of Illinois, questioned the wisdom of imposing a fine. He pointed out that the clause might, as now worded, be so construed as to fine a county for a gangster slaying that occurred within it.

Arthur Garfield Hays and Walter Whitte agreed that it would be better to change that section of the bill than to risk rejection of the entire measure.

But Karl N. Llewellyn, Professor of Law at Columbia University said the fine was "the heart of the bill," and that "even should an injustice be done to a county the imposition of a fine or two would bring us back to the downward trend (in lynching."

Later he agreed that he would consider carefully a possible amendment restricting definitions of violence to slaying of persons charged with a crime, or taken from the authorities.

ANTI-LYNCHING LAWS URGED BY COUNCIL

Constitution

State and National Legislation To Curb Practice Called For.

2-19-34

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—(AP)—Noting that 28 persons were lynched during 1933 in 11 states, the Federal Council of Churches called tonight for state and national legislation to curb the practice.

"The year 1933 was probably the worst year in the crusade against the lynching evil since 1922," said the council in announcing its honor roll of states that had no lynchings during the year.

Atlanta, Ga.

Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, Ohio and Virginia regained their places on the honor roll in 1933.

"Until last year there were strong indications of a trend downward," said Dr. George Edmund Haynes, executive secretary of the department of race relations, "but the spread of territory under sway of lynch law and the increase in the number of victims indicate that the mob spirit is again on a rising tide.

"For the first time in the history of the evil a governor of a sovereign state publicly expressed his approval of the lynchers and his acquiescence in their crime before the fact. The sudden breakdown of the prosecution of the lynchers by the state authorities in another state probably increased the tide.

"Law officers, the report said, prevented 37 attempted lynchings. States

omitted from the honor roll were Alabama, California, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

New York Times

FEB 21 1934

URGE FEDERAL LAW TO STOP LYNCHINGS

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Senate Committee May Subpoena Witnesses From Missouri and California.

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Mr. Van Nuys said the committee also would consider the issuance of subpoenas for witnesses in the San José and Missouri lynchings. Governor Rolph of California will be invited to appear with opponents of the bill.

Com Appeal

2-23-34

Memphis

Just What They Want

The Florida grand jury, which, after a three weeks' investigation, reported that it had not been able to find evidence of "mob" violence or lynching in the death of a negro at Tampa on Jan. 30, has given those urging passage of the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill the material they want.

The negro had first been suspected of a crime against a girl. A police investigation cleared him. While he was still in the Tampa city jail a county constable called for him in the early morning hours and took charge of him on a warrant charging chicken stealing. An hour later the constable returned to say that a band of men took his prisoner from him and killed him.

The grand jury was content to confine its findings to a criticism of the constable for "acting without autherity" in claiming the prisoner, and the city police for permitting prisoners to be released at late hours.

Hearing is being held at Washington on the anti-lynching bill. It is said that some of those suspected of having been involved in the Tampa crime will be summoned to testify.

The Wagner-Costigan bill is unwise. It is unfair in its punitive phases. It would deprive states of very definite rights, but if those who know it to be unwise, and those who do not wish it to pass really desire to prevent its passage, they will go the limit in proving that prevention of lynching is a local responsibility. This was demonstrated by Governor Conner and Mississippi last week.

MEMPHIS, TENN.
COMMERCIAL APPEAL

FEB 7 1934

Leave It To States

Scripps-Howard newspapers are making a concerted drive for the enactment of a federal antilynching law. They have had a lot to say about resolutions adopted in Atlanta by the Conference of Southern White Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

Admitting that the convention did not indorse the pending Wagner-Costigan bill, the New York World-Telegram says: "There is argument for such a measure in the conference's statement," and adds: "The federal antilynching bill does not deprive localities of an opportunity to preserve constitutional rights to their citizens. It merely arms the federal government with the right to step in and punish lynchers and cowardly officials when localities have failed."

The Cleveland Press declares that "the Dixie gentlemen who have been lynching black men stand condemned by the very flower of womanhood they have pretended to protect." These newspapers unfortunately are erroneously assuming that the various organizations in the South that are working for the elimination of lynching sprang up overnight for the purpose of securing the passage of a federal antilynching law. On the contrary, there are numerous organizations in the South devoting themselves to the improvement of racial relations and reduction of crime with long years of service and a record of achievement to their credit.

People of the South were engaged in this enterprise before there was any suggestion of federal laws on the subject. The South has made progress in this direction. It has made progress through its own initiative and notwithstanding outside interference which is more harmful than helpful.

We cannot agree that the indictment of all officials where lynchings have occurred as cowards is correct. In many instances officers who have their prisoners taken from them by mobs are no more cowardly than prison officials who lose their prisoners through ouside aid in prison breaks.

The reference of the Cleveland Press to the "Dixie gentlemen who have been lynching black men" would leave the impression that all white men in the South are either actual or potential lynchers. There is no more sentiment in the South for lynching than there is in California, Maryland or Missouri.

The Commercial Appeal has protested against lynching for many years, along with other representative southern newspapers.

Long after the name of the victim is forgotten, if it was ever known, the gruesome details of lynchings are vivid and the record stands as a blot upon the name of the community where it occurs. Nothwithstanding our opposition to lynching, we oppose the intervention of the federal government in the administration of criminal laws as presumptuous and in violation of the constitutional rights of states.

MEMPHIS, TENN.
COMMERCIAL APPEAL

FEB 6 1934

The Lynching Bill

In the discussion of the Costigan-Wagner bill, southern newspapers are absolved from taking a provincial viewpoint because they oppose it.

Lynchings are not sectional. Much as they are to be deplored, they are the result of failure or lack of confidence in the administration of the law. As the law is enforced and applied speedily and adequately lynching will disappear. Additional legislation will not remedy a situation where laws already in effect are not administered.

We do not need more laws, but a more rigid enforcement of the laws we have.

In most states the laws against kidnaping are adequate, but when the nation was aroused over the Lindbergh case Congress promptly passed a federal act. In Chicago last week a kidnaper was positively identified by his victim, and other evidence tended to show that there was no doubt about the guilt of those on trial. A few friendly jurors caused a hung jury and perhaps the case will be retried, and perhaps not.

The anti-lynching bill is sweeping in its application. It presumes the victim innocent of any crime against society; that those who take the law into their own hands are criminals, and law-enforcing officers of the county are co-conspirators.

Any officer or employe of the county or state who fails to protect a victim from a mob is guilty of a felony, under the provisions of the act, and shall be fined $5,000 or imprisoned five years or both.

Any officer who has a prisoner in his charge taken away from him and lynched shall be imprisoned for not less than five years, or for life.

The county in which a person is lynched shall forfeit $10,000 to the family of the victim. If the victim is transported from one county to another, both counties are liable.

Regardless of the fact that a citizen may be vigorously opposed to lynching and innocent of any knowledge concerning it, his property may be seized by the federal government for the benefit of the victim's family.

The proposed law is vicious in all of its aspects and an encouragement for the commission of crimes which usually provoke lynchings.

Lynchings-1934 I
Legislation Relating to:

4761

HARTFORD, CONN.
COURANT
FEB 5 1934

The Anti-Lynching Bill

The Judiciary Committee of the Senate still has under consideration a bill referred to it a month ago entitled "An act to assure to persons within the jurisdiction of every State the equal protection of the laws and to punish the crime of lynching." It is commonly known as the Costigan-Wagner bill. Following very closely as it does the Dyer anti-lynching bill, which passed the House in 1922 by a vote of 231 to 119 but which failed of action in the Senate by reason of obstructive tactics, no good reason appears why the bill should not be favorably reported out and enacted.

Objection will be raised that the bill is unconstitutional, but it has been most carefully drawn by qualified lawyers who are convinced that it can successfully withstand any test before the Supreme Court. Congress has recently enacted in the guise of "emergency legislation" numerous measures of far more questionable constitutionality than this. When one considers that in the last fifty years no fewer than 5050 persons have been the victims of mob frenzy and that last year alone twenty-eight persons were lynched, it might well appear that here is an emergency of more serious import than any with which Congress has dealt. But the Costigan-Wagner bill is not based on an emergency; rather does it look to the permanent correction of what has become a national disgrace.

No one should for a moment suppose that the enactment of this measure will automatically put an end to lynchings; no law ever fully accomplishes its objectives. But there can be little question that the presence of this act on the Federal statute books would exert a restraining influence very much needed. In brief the bill undertakes to give all persons within a State the protection that citizens of the United States are supposed to have under the Constitution. If the authorities of a State shall fail, neglect, refuse to apprehend, prosecute, or punish those participating in a lynching within thirty days after the commission of the crime, then the federal authorities within the jurisdiction shall act, and in accordance with the laws of the State shall try to bring the guilty to justice.

Any county in which a person is put to death "by a mob or riotous assemblage" shall forfeit $10,000, which sum may be recovered by suit therefore in the name of the United States against such county for the use of the family or the dependent parents, if any, of the person so put to death; otherwise for the use of the United States. If a person is seized by a mob in one county and put to death in another, both counties shall be jointly and severally liable to pay the forfeiture.

An officer of any State or governmental subdivision thereof who is charged with the duty of protecting "the life or person of any individual injured or put to death by any mob," or who refuses to make all diligent efforts in that direction shall be guilty of a felony, and upon his conviction shall be punished by a fine not exceeding $5000, or by imprisonment for not less than five years, or by both such fine and imprisonment. If such an officer shall "conspire, combine or confederate with any person to injure or put such prisoner to death without authority of law," or who, in other words, plays directly into the hands of the mob shall likewise be guilty of a felony, and so shall those with whom he may have dealt, and the punishment may be by imprisonment for not less than five years or for life.

The essence of the Costigan-Wagner bill is that an act committed in any State in violation of the rights of a citizen, which act constitutes a crime under the laws of the State, "shall constitute a like crime against the peace and dignity of the United States, punishable in like manner in its courts as in the courts of the State." In short, it is here proposed that the Fourteenth Article of the Constitution shall be given effectiveness so far as the crime of lynching is concerned. For that Article declares that all persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside, and that no State shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws. Since Congress is given full power to enforce these and other provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment, there would seem to be no question as to the constitutionality of a properly drawn anti-lynching bill.

Although Negroes are chiefly the victims of lynch law, no fewer than 1451 white citizens have been murdered in this fashion during the last fifty years. Of all those lynched since records have been kept approximately 37 per cent were accused of murder, 16 per cent of rape 6 per cent of attempted rape, 7 per cent of theft 6 per cent of felonious assault, and the remainder of all sorts of miscellaneous crimes and offenses. The Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching in a recent report said that investigations of lynching often proved that the accusations of rape and attempted rape were utterly unfounded. To quote from the report: "In some cases the charges were fabrications of white persons attempting to mask their own faults. In others, these accusations were advanced by lynchers to absolve themselves from community blame. Many Negroes accused of rape or attempted rape and saved from mobs by courageous peace officers or other means have been acquitted by the courts . . . The very fact that this type of rumor enrages the mass of whites is the reason unscrupulous white men and women can use it so effectively in efforts to conceal their own misdeeds." In justice to the Negro race, these findings of a disinterested and impartial commission of representative Southern citizens under the chairmanship of Mr. George Fort Milton, editor of the Chattanooga News, deserve to receive wide publicity.

Lynching to Become Unpopular

Macon Telegraph
Ga.
2-6-34

When the federal government has considered bills for prevention of lynching it has been said in protest about states rights. But with the refusal of the states to put into effect any measure that is halfway effective it is quite natural that the matter should again be brought out in Congress.

Representative Thomas F. Ford of California has introduced in the House of Representatives at Washington an anti-lynching bill similar to the one introduced in the upper House by Senator Edward P. Costigan of Colorado and Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York.

It seems likely that the bill will pass. That is, no suggestion of a fight has been heard.

Doubtless Representative Ford has moved in the matter as a protest from his state for the California governor's sensational approval of a lynching that occurred there some time ago.

The bill agreed upon by the sponsors provides federal interference only when a county or state has refused or failed to arrest and prosecute "a mob or riotous assemblage" composed of three or more persons acting in concert without authority of law, for the purpose of depriving any person of his life, or doing him physical injury. A lapse of 30 days constitutes failure.

Any officer or employe of the state or subdivision thereof shall be held guilty of failure to give due protection to a person in his keeping under the law unless he makes all diligent efforts, and in case of defeat in those efforts he shall prosecute to final judgment all persons participating as a mob, or be fined not more than $5,000 or be imprisoned five years, or both.

And if it can be shown that he conspired with any of the mob he and they can be imprisoned (not fined) for not less than five years, or for life.

The federal court can assume jurisdiction when it is shown that proper efforts have not been made to discover the members of the mob and to bring them to justice; or when it is shown that jurors might not find against members of the mob if the local courts should attempt prosecution. Thirty days' failure to do anything definite and effective against a mob shall be deemed prima facie evidence that nothing is likely to be done by the state court; and this will give the federal authorities jurisdiction.

The United States shall sue the county for $10,000 in behalf of the family of any person murdered by a mob. If no family, the dependent parents are entitled to the money. If no parents the United States government gets it. Any state officers resisting the necessary processes of the government may be punished for contempt of the federal court.

If a mob victim is seized in one county and carried to another, both counties jointly and severally shall be held liable for the damages. Another section refers to the protection that must be given to a citizen of a foreign country. Such foreigner shall have the benefit of the same protection as that afforded citizens of the United States.

It is probable under such a federal law no more wild lynchings will occur; or if they do, the local officers will be obliged to take action. No more verdicts will be accepted reading "Came to his death at the hands of party or parties unknown."

The $10,000 damage penalty will not be enforced in many counties before public sentiment in those counties will turn against lynchers. The public is now prone to think "Oh, well; the man lynched was a bad actor, and these lynchers had merely a spell of patriotic aberration. Why not let the matter drop there?" And it does drop there. The country is breaking out with another lynching epidemic this year. Twenty-five lynchings occurred in January. It is not necessary to go on toward chaos in this way. The lynching spirit is the murder spirit, if we look at it in the best light possible. And it reflects the fiendishness in our natures rather than the bravery. It gives sway to our basest passions, and there is no end to them unless they are curbed.

A federal lynching law will do some needed curbing. If the people in the several states will not do it for themselves, the federal government will have to do it for them. And thus will pass another state function along with so many other state rights that have been discarded.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
February 5, 1934

Federal Anti-Lynching Bill Usurpation Of People's Liberties, Says Attorney

By Oscar L. Tompkins,
Former President Alabama Bar Association.

On January 4, Senator Costigan of Colorado, a good Socialist-Democrat, and Senator Wagner of New York, a good Tammany Hall-Democrat, introduced an anti-lynching bill in the United States Senate.

Outrageous Provisions of the Measure

Some of the essential features of this bill are:

(1) Where State authorities fail to apprehend or indict lynchers within thirty days from the day of the lynching, or there is "a failuure diligently to prosecute them" the nearest Federal District Court may proceed to issue warrants for the lynchers and try them in accordance with the laws of the state;

(2) The failure, neglect or refusal of the state law officers is made a Federal offense and any state officer who fails to make diligent effort to protect an individual against lynchers, or refuses to perform his duty in apprehending ,keeping in custody, or prosecuting to final judgment all persons participating in a lynching, is guilty of a felony and subject to a fine of not more than $5,000, or to imprisonment for not more than five years, one or both. Further, if appears that such state officer actually conspired, combined and confederated with the lynchers, he may be imprisoned by such Federal Court for life. It will be noted that the penalty may be visited upon ANY state officer charged with the duty of apprehending, keeping in custody, or prosecuting any person concerned, in a lynching;

(3) The heirs of a person lynched may sue in Federal Court the county in which a lynching occurred for damages, or, if one or more counties be concerned, suit may be brought against these counties jointly and severally. The amount of damages recoverable from a county is fixed at $10,000 and the damages are payable to the victim's wife and children. . . . or to his dependent parents. . . . or into the treasury of the United States. In case the judgment is not paid by a county, the Federal marshal may levy upon any property of the county, or the county officers may be brought before the United States judge and jailed for contempt.

It will be recalled that Representative Dyer, Republican, of Missouri, in 1920 introduced a similar bill in the national House of Representatives, which bill was designed to protect citizens of the United States as well as aliens. Dyer's bill passed the House in 1922, but was defeated in the Senate by a filibuster of Southern senators. The Dyer bill provided in brief for jurisdiction in the Federal Courts to punish county officers and lynchers and for the forfeiture to the United States of $10,000 by any county which was the scene of a lynching. The whole power, in the main of a Republican House of Representatives and of a Republican President was put behind the Dyer bill to compel its enactment. Recently President Roosevelt delivered an address in which he denounced banditry, kidnaping and lynching, and apparently indicated that he desired the passage of a Federal law to suppress these three crimes. At this time the President's word is all but the law of the land. If the weight of his influence and popularity is thrown behind the Costigan-Wagner bill, it will become the law, except that it may be defeated by a filibuster on the part of senators.

Lynching a Most Horrible Crime

No defense can be made for lynch law. Lynching is uncontrolled mass murder. The mob condemns both the innocent and the guilty without trial and hurtles their souls into eternity. In a mob the criminal is at the fore; every brutal instinct and passion of the human race exhibits itself in the savagery of a mob. No right-thinking man can justify the actions of a mob. The mob spirit is anarchy. Mob action is the work of the beast of the jungle. Mobs kill the law, slay all the finer instincts of mankind, topple over all respect for law and order, overthrow organized government, make every man's life and every man's property unsafe and damn the souls of the members of the mob. Only a murderer, only a craven-spirited thug can champion the cause of a mob, and only such will seek to justify a lynching—and this holds true whatever the seeming provocation may be. But it does not follow from the enormity of the crime that a state shall surrender its sovereignty to the Federal government, nor that Federal courts shall be clothed with jurisdiction to punish violations of state law.

State Laws Against Lynching

In the following states: Alabama, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Virginia and North Carolina, lynching is a crime. In Illinois, Pensylvania, New Jersey and West Virginia mob violence is a crime. In Alabama, Indiana, Kansas and Kentucky there is accessorial liability. Eleven states: Connecticut, Kansas, Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvnaia, South Carolina, New Jersey, North Carolina, and West Virginia have statutes providing for a recovery against a city or county in which a lynching or mob death occurs. In six states provision is made for a recovery in cases of mob injury. These states are Illinois, Kansas, Connecticut, Ohio, Wisconsin and New Jersey. The Constitution of South Carolina, dating from 1896, penalizes counties for mob deaths. It will be noted that five southern states: Alabama, Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina, have stringent laws against lynching. At the common law which obtains in most of the states, lynching, which is murder, is already a crime. Nine states make provision for the removal of peace officers who fail to prevent lynchings. They are: Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, South Carolina, Tennessee, and New Jersey. It will be observed that four of these nine states are southern states.

Alabama Law As to Lynching and As to Removal of Peace Officers Who Are Derelict in the Prevention of Lynching

Section 138 of the Alabama Constitution provides that whenever any prisoner is taken from jail, or from custody of any sheriff or his deputy, and put to death, or suffers grievous bodily harm, owing to the neglect, connivance, cowardice, or other grave fault of the sheriff, such sheriff may be impeached under Section 174 of the Constitution, and that such sheriff, if impeached and thereupon convicted, shall not be eligible to hold any office in this state during the time for which he had been electe or appointed to serve as sheriff. Section 17 of the Alabama Constitution provide among other things, that such sheriff ma be removed by the Supreme Court unde such regulations as may be provided by law Section 4939 of the Code of Alabama pr vides, among other things, that any perso who is a member of a mob and who part cipates or actually aids or abets a lync ing, shall, on conviction suffer death or b imprisoned in the penitentiary not less tha e years, and that any person who is a member of a mob and present at any lynching, but who does not actually participate in the lynching, shall be deemed guilty of abetting such lynching, and shall be subject to imprisonment in the penitentiary for not less than one year, nor more than twenty-one years. Alabama has other statutes against whitecapping and riots and mobs. At page 616 of the General Acts of Alabama for 1927 is found a law which provides that any person or persons who while masked, or while their faces are hidden or partially concealed . . . shall whip, flog, beat or in any other way assault any person . . . shall be guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary for not less than one year nor more than ten years. I introduced the bill which became the law as above stated. On December 28, 1868 the General Assembly of Alabama passed an Act to suppress murder, lynching, assaults and assaults and batteries. This Act provided: "That whenever in any county of this state, any person shall be assassinated or murdered by any outlaw . . . or mob . . . that the widow or husband of such person so murdered . . . the next of kin of such person, shall be entitled to recover of the county in which such murder or assassination occurred the sum of $5,000. . . ." This law came before the Supreme Court of Alabama in the case of Dale County vs. Gunter, which case is reported in 46 Ala., 118. The law was held to be constitutional but no recovery was had in that case for that it was not judicially ascertained that the alleged murder of Gunter was perpetrated by an outlaw.

All of the foregoing is submitted to show that the various states, and Alabama in particular, have ample laws for the punishment of lynchers and the suppression of the crime of lynching.

In the current issue of American Bar Association Journal appears a most illuminating article by James H. Chadbourn, assistant professor of law at the University of North Carolina, entitled, "Lynching and the Law." The author has painstakingly investigated the subject and has made a reasonable, fair statement of conditions and the law as they are.

The provision, if state authorities fail to apprehend or indict lynchers within thirty days from the day of the lynching, or there is a failure diligently to prosecute the lynchers, that the nearest Federal District Court may proceed to issue warrants for the lynchers and try them, is fraught with many patent and latent dangers. Many times a grand jury may not be empanelled within thirty days; often evidence cannot be discovered within thirty days on which indictments may be based. The foregoing provisions of the proposed law may often mean that a Federal Court will assume jurisdiction without just cause, that a swarm of

Lynchings-1934 II.
Legislation Relating to.

4760

Dothan Ala. Eagle 2-5-34

Department of Justice agents, brought from the ends of the republic, will pounce upon a helpless population and run down every wild rumor based upon personal hatred and vindictiveness, that spies will seek out every idle word and expression of opinion and base thereupon a charge of crime. Moreover, it will take from the defendant the right to be tried by a jury of his peers in his own county and cause to be put upon him a jury from many counties. Again, it takes from the states and from the citizens of the states, the right to enforce their own statues and put the same into the hands of the United States courts.

The provision making it a Federal offense for any state officer not to make diligent effort to protect an individual against lynchers, or to refuse to perform his duty in apprehending, keeping in custody, or prosecute to final judgment all persons participating in a lynching, and making such an offense punishable by a fine of not more than $5,000, or imprisonment for not more than five years, one or both, puts into the hands of the Federal courts the power to supervise the administration of state laws by state courts. Such an enactment would destroy the last vestige of independence on the part of a state court and would make a state court a mere creature of the Federal court for life, would be nothing the superior power. The further provision that if it appears that a state officer actually conspired, combined and confederated with lynchers, he may be imprisoned by such Federal court fo rlife, would be nothing more nor less than a base usurpation of the power and authority of a state to punish its officers for failure to discharge their duties.

When the time comes that Federal courts may imprison state officers for life on account of their failure to enforce state laws, state governments should be abolished and we should be governed from Washington by boards, commissions, satraps and United States Army officers.

The provision giving a right of action for damages in the sum of $10,000 to the heirs, distributes, etc., of a lynched person against a county in which a lynching occurred ,the suit to be brought in the nearest Federal court against such county, opens wide the door to veery kind of fraud and unjust demand. The heirs of every man killed in a drunken brawl will summon the county where the killing occurred into Federal court and undertake to mulct the county in damages. The heirs of every gambler who is shot down by his partners in gambling, the heirs and distributees of every hi-jacker, who is eased of his loot and relieved of his worthless life by his competitors will sue the county which was the scene of his bumping off. Then ponder upon this: Here is a county over its ears in debt, having already exceeded its constitutoinal debt limit. A judgment is levied against it on account of this law and a United States marshal, accompanied by a committee to take a census of the number of pages in the record of the county, will proceed to levy upon the court house and jail and poor farm and the county road machinery in order to make the judgment. I suppose in the event the citizens of a county were to burn the court house and jail and road equipment so a county could escape a levy, the county officers could be cited before a Federal court to answer for the contempt of those who did the burning. I would not be misunderstood: I do not believe that Federal courts would intentionally be a party to these tyrannies. But a Federal court, like any other court, would have to pass upon the law and the proof before it and render judgment accordingly.

Should We Surrender All to the Federal Government?

Federal bureaus, commissions, corporations and agencies have multiplied in number beyond the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore. No living scholar is able to catalogue their names and numbers. They tell us what to plant, how much to plant, and when to plant, they count the very fleas on our rats, they take a census of the taxes we have failed to pay and of the mortgages that our creditors foreclosed against us. They fix our hours of labor and the number of days on which we shall labor. They fix our wages and the prices of what we would like to buy. We have given to these Federal boards, bureaus, commissions, agencies and corporations powers that neither the Czar of all the Russians nor the Sultan of the Turks ever dared to exercise in the days of their might and glory. Shall it never stop? Shall the states and the counties and the municipalities and the individual citizens deliver their lives, liberties and property, their rights and privileges and their sovereign powers to the Federal Government without remonstrance or protest?

The Duty of Our Representatives At Washington

It is the solemn, inescapable duty of every Congressman and senator at Washington to fight this bill to the death. If any senator or representative from Alabama fails to use every power and resource at his command to defeat this bill, he should be scourged out of office and driven into oblivion. Surely the lust for power, the hope for preferment, the itch for influence and for favors to be bestowed in turn upon a greedy constituency, will not dull the ears and make mute the voices of those who claim to represent us in Washington at this time. It is inspiring to know that Senator Black and Senator Bankhead are against this measure. If others fail us we shall not forget them.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
NEWS
FEB 6 1934

Lynching Measure Set for Hearing in Senate Feb. 20-21

Scores of National Leaders, Including Several Washingtonians, Willing to Appear

Declaring that the national response to the move for a Federal anti-lynching statute is "amazing," Sen. Frederick Van Nuys (D., Ind.) today promised hearings on the Costigan-Wagner bill for Feb. 20 and 21.

Authors, sociologists, churchmen club women and public officials from all over the United States have offered to come to Washington to testify for the bill. In a later hearing for opponents to the measure Sen. Van Nuys will wire Gov. Rolph of California inviting him to present his unique views in favor of lynch law.

"Only a filibuster or some similar legislative device can defeat the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill," said Van Nuys today. "The sentiment for it all over the country reflects itself in Congress. I believe there is a tremendous majority in both houses for this bill."

According to Sen. Van Nuys, an organization representing 1,000,000 southern women will be invited to send speakers. Others who have signified their willingness to speak are:

Arthur Garfield Hays, New York City, prominent attorney, active in many cases involving civil liberties; Charles Edward Russell, Washington, D. C., journalist and author; Bishop Francis McConnell, New York City; The Writers League Against Lynching, represented by Harry Hansen, Fannie Hurst, Heywood Broun, Stuart Chase, Faith Baldwin; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, represented by Mrs. Hannah Clothier Hull; Dr. James H. Dillard, Charlottesville, Va.; Charles H. Tuttle, New York, former United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York; Charles H. Houston, dean of Howard University Law School; William Crawford, witness to the lynching of Norris Dendy at Clinton, S. C., July 4, 1933.

PITTSBURGH, PA.
POST GAZETTE
FEB 9 1934

Kentucky Rejects Mob Rule.

WHILE pressure is being exerted upon Congress for passage of a Federal anti-lynching law, Kentucky furnishes a demonstration of what can be done in the states, by the states, if the states desire. A special grand jury at Hazard, Kentucky, has indicted seven men for taking part in the lynching of Rex Scott, a colored man. Scott had been arrested and lodged in the Perry County jail. He was taken from his cell by a mob of more than a hundred men, hanged, and riddled with bullets. This happened January 24; the grand jury's action was completed, after hearing some 200 witnesses, within two weeks.

Scott's crime was not that for which lynchings are commonly thought of. He was arrested for "slugging a miner." Still, lynching is lynching, and the Kentucky jury's action is far from negligible as an indication of what can be done within a state, without Federal laws, when the community refuses to plunge into the excesses of mob rule. Federal anti-lynching laws may be found desirable, but the case for them needs some arguing, in view of the fact that lynchings are generally intra-state.

CHANGE CRIMINAL LAWS, OR ELSE — RICE

Noted Crime Expert Says 'Mob Rule' Will Hold Sway Unless Immediate Action Is Taken to Speed Justice

By Thomas L. Rice, LL.B.

Member Statutory Crime Commission of New York State, 1926-31

REVOLUTIONIZING the criminal laws and procedure, State and Federal, throughout the land is an immediate and imperative necessity if we are to reduce the number of lynchings and to quell the rapidily rising spirit of lawlessness among the lawabiding. Lynching will not be stopped or even checked by the bill of Senator Kean of New Jersey and in my opinion it is a serious blow to the entire cause of criminal law reform to introduce such a measure at this time.

The Kean bill would leave it in the discretion of the U. S. Attorney General to prosecute State officials and the members of mobs whenever in the opinion of that official in far-away Washington the State officers did not do their full duty in protecting a prisoner, and that same official would prosecute the lynchers. If that became a law it would be the first time the Federal Government ever arrogated to itself the right to prosecute a wholly local crime within a State.

* * *

Such an arrogation of a right never contemplated by the U. S. Constitution would set a precedent for the Federal Government assuming to punish any kind of crime whatever, from pocket-picking to murder. Knowing the invariable tendency of the central Government to encroach on the freedom of the States, it is an absolutely safe bet that if the Kean bill were passed and upheld by the U. S. Supreme Court that would mark a long step toward abolishing the status of the States as free commonwealths.

So clear is that implication of the Kean bill that it probably has no chance whatever of passing, but its mere introduction at this time will have a tendency to arouse such suspicions and resentments among State police and officials that the entire cause of strengthening the Federal law where it really should be strengthened may suffer irreparable injury.

* * *

Lynching is not a disease of the body politic but a symptom of a rapidly spreading disease, which is the loss of faith of the people in the efficacy of the criminal law. When the average citizen is reasonably certain that a person guilty of a shocking crime will be caught, will be promptly prosecuted and, do not forget this, sufficiently punished to "satisfy the demand of the public for punitive punishment," lynchings will automatically come to an end.

About 28 lynchings are recorded for 1933 in the United States, as against eight the year before. They were not limited to the Southern States and they were not limited to Negroes and aliens.

The outstanding lynching of the year was the hanging of two men in San Jose, Calif., on Nov. 26 for the kidnaping and murder of a young man. It has been pointed out before in this column, and is worth repeating, that the San Jose mob was composed largely, if not almost entirely, of native-born, old-stock Americans and the two victims of the mob were of the same type.

The citizens of San Jose took the law into their own hands because they feared that the two prisoners either would escape justice or that justice would be delayed for many weary months, possibly years. Their fear was well founded. After the lynching it developed that one of the men intended to repudiate his confession and the other intended to plead not guilty, although both their guilt and sanity seem to have been established beyond any reasonable doubt whatever.

* * *

Had the citizens of San Jose been perfectly confident that Thurmond and Holmes would be tried within two or three weeks and, if convicted, would have been executed in not more than three months after the trial began, the lynching would never have occurred or even been proposed.

When I hear or read violent denunciations of lynchings by persons who make no effort whatever to remove the basic cause of lynching which is weak law and procedure, often followed by utterly inadequate punishment, I am reminded of persons who would denounce the lack of hospital accommodations in a typhoid epidemic and yet refuse to lift a finger toward the removal of the contamination of the water supply that brought about the epidemic.

Senator Kean and thousands of others are all steamed up over lynchings of criminals taken from police officers or jailers. How much interest do they display in the hundreds of assaults, some resulting fatally, committed on policemen in the United States every year by strikers or others seeking to injure persons or property the injured or murdered policemen have sworn to protect?

While a lynching attracts national attention and wide denunciation, the killing of a policeman by self-proclaimed radicals attracts only local attention, and little of that. Right here in New York when the Communists stage a riot for the mere purpose of advertising themselves and policemen are severely injured by knives, clubs or even bullets, the incidents are treated as trivial and mere side issues to the newspaper stories of the riot.

Senator Kean would be doing a service that would open the public's eyes if he would request the Department of Justice to obtain the total of the number of policemen killed or so badly injured that they had to be relieved from duty, in dealing with rioters, especially those who called themselves radicals.

The total would be surprising, but even more surprising would be the fact that the attacked police forces had not done more damage to the rioters.

* * *

Further, I suggest that Senator Kean ask the proper authorities to furnish full information regarding the penalties imposed by police magistrates and the higher criminal courts on rioters, especially radicals, for attacks that sent policemen to hospitals or graves.

He would find that rioters who had committed what is known in the New York Penal Law as first degree assault, roughly, attack with a deadly weapon, and carrying a maximum of ten years seldom suffered more than a small fine or less than a month in prison if their victims were policemen.

In other countries the policeman receives special protection from the law because he protects the public and an injury to him is an injury to the public. Throughout the United States attacks on policemen by mobs of any sort are treated as matters of no consequence.

If one reads the accounts of riots in Latin America, where the losing rioter has an excellent chance of being shot out of hand by policemen, or of being shot against a wall a few hours later, one is struck by the absence from those riots of the class of persons who freely riot in the large cities of the United States, attack policemen with impunity and glory in having newspaper photographers take pictures of them in the act of assaulting policemen.

Police magistrates and criminal court judges in the Eastern cities who treat offenders against policemen with less severity than they treat a juvenile delinquent are usually willing to give snappy interviews to newspapers excoriating policemen who have refused to allow themselves to be killed or have refused to kill large numbers of frantic persons in defense of such persons as the two men who were lynched in San Jose on Nov. 26. And the next day they will impose a $10 fine or ten days in jail on a professional agitator who has caved in a policeman's head with a brick.

* * *

The failure of magistrates and judges to give policemen proper protection explains much of the lawlessness in the United States, yet it is a subject that has been completely ignored. Speakers and writers, with no first-hand knowledge of the facts, will condemn policemen a thousand miles away who used firearms against rioters in sheer self-defense, but have not a word to say when a rioter who has committed a first-degree assault on a policeman receives the penalty that would be received by a drunk and disorderly.

A favorite theme for a certain variety of author seeking publicity is the so-called "lawless enforcement of the law," to which the Hoover Commission paid so much attention. I suggest that Senator Kean offer a resolution in the Senate for a commission to inquire into non-enforcement of the law by judges and other public officials when policemen are attacked.

* * *

Also, let the suggested commission inquire into this:

How much of the increase in the lynching spirit demonstrated by the 1932 statistics was due to the persistent advocacy of more probation and of more and earlier paroles, especially by public officials, giving citizens the justifiable impression that even if a vicious offender should be convicted he would receive a totally inadequate penalty, or no penalty at all?

Years of observation have convinced me that the parole extremists, now a fashionable cult, are among the most important factors in that rapidly increasing spirit of lawlessness among the law-abiding which must inevitably find expression in mob violence, possibly on a mass scale.

Lynchings-1934
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4762

Democrat To Offer Anti-Lynching Bill

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—(AP)—A Federal anti-lynching bill providing penalties for State and peace officers who permit persons in their custody to be lynched is to be introduced in the coming Congress by Senator Costigan, (D) Colorado.

The measure has the support of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Walter White, secretary to the association said today the bill also would be introduced in the House. He said there was "considerable support in the South for this measure."

The measure would give the Federal Government authority to act when States and counties refused, failed or neglected to prosecute lynchers. Peace officers who permitted jails to be broken in and prisoners lynched would be subject, if found guilty, to penalties of not more than five years imprisonment or a $5,000 fine or both.

State officers, including Governors, proved guilty of conspiracy or connivance in lynchings would be subject to a sentence of five years to life imprisonment.

Under the measure, the prosecution would be before the Federal judge in the district in which the lynching occurred.

An Iniquitious Act

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tenn.
1-1-34

Senators Wagner of New York and Costigan of Colorado, have endangered the entire administration congressional program by introducing an anti-lynching law modeled after that which inspired the famous Democratic filibuster of 1922.

There is not the slightest chance that the bill will be passed with southern delegations unanimously opposed to it, as they are. Should Wagner and Costigan attempt to force the bill, they would unquestionably provoke another filibuster. Democratic leaders are already promising it if the force effort is made.

It is vitally essential that bills intended for speeding and improving the recovery program get first and major consideration. The injection of the proposed anti-lynching measure would be obstructive in the highest sense.

The Wagner-Costigan bill proposes the same punitive steps provided in the late Senator Lodge's measure of 1922, the removal of officers in counties where lynchings occurred, and payment of $10,000 to the family of the victim out of the county treasury.

Such a law, regardless of its specific provisions, would be an infringement on state's rights.

States are not going to relinquish to the government the right of criminal prosecution.

The proposed law does not reflect public opinion. With such a law in effect, public opinion of a nonco-operative character would actually defeat the very purpose of the law.

Aside from the lack of merit in the new bill, Senator Wagner, as a leading Democrat, ought to have known that the present is a most injudicious time for proposing it.

He well knows the temper of his southern colleagues, and for that matter, a great number from northern states, on the particular matter. Senator McKellar, three weeks ago, announced publicly that he would oppose, with all the influence at his command, the passage of such a law. A great many in the Senate are of like mind.

It was Senator Harrison who in 1922 guided and dominated the successful three days' filibuster against the Lodge bill. These gentlemen must be reckoned with.

If Senators Wagner and Costigan are in sympathy with the aims of their party and of the administration in working for a session as speedy, short and as harmonious as possible, they will quickly withdraw their bill.

ANTI-LYNCHING LAW STRONGLY SUPPORTED

Journal and Guide

To Introduce Bill In Congress This Week

1-6-34

Special to Journal and Guide

WASHINGTON, D. C.—With the opening of Congress this week, renewed impetus was given to the nation-wide movement to secure the passage of Federal anti-lynching law. Powerful organizations and outstanding private citizens and state officials, including governors, are joining daily in the campaign to stamp out mob violence with a United States government law with teeth in it.

Norfolk Va.

Governor A. Harry Moore of New Jersey was quoted by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as saying, "We in New Jersey believe in law and order. Naturally I am opposed to lynching.

Johin W. Taylor, a liberal member of the Kentucky, has written the American Civil Liberties Union in New York that he would like legal aid in having an amendment made to the present law regarding removal of officers who let prisoners be taken from their custody in his state.

Recent reports of the lynching of Negroes in the United States has moved the League of Coloured People, an organization in England for the protection of colored people there, to register a vigorous protest and to urge upon the American government the passage of a law to put down the barbarous practice. The league also resolved that an end should put to the Scottsboro case.

Reports from all parts of the

ANTI-LYNCHING LAW STRONGLY SUPPORTED

(Continued from page 1)

country received at the N. A. A. C. P. office in New York last week show that Negroes of the country are thoroughly aroused by the upsurge of lynching and are rallying to the support of the Costigan Federal anti-lynching bill to be introduced in Congress this week.

In an unsolicited letter couched in his usual frank language, Senator Robert F. Wagner, of New York, has written to the N. A. A. C. P. secretary, [illegible] that the Costigan bill will have his most active support.

ANTI-LY[illegible]NG BILL OFFERE[illegible] SENATE

Times

Costigan-Wagner Plan Paves Way to Jail Officers Who Fail Against Mobs.

WOULD FINE COUNTY $1,000

New York N.Y.

Money Would Go to Victim's Kin —Cummings Is Not Backing a Lynching Measure.

1-5-34

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—A Federal anti-lynching law, said by its supporters not to deprive States of a single opportunity to preserve constitutional rights, but providing for Federal action where States have failed, was introduced today by Senators Costiga nand Wagner.

Under the bill a Federal penalty not exceeding five years' imprisonme nor $5,000 fine or both might be placed upon any State officer who failed to exercise diligence in protecting those in his charge from mobe assaults, or who neglected to do his part in apprehending and convicting those who, in passion and prejudice and without the safeguards of fair trial, undertook to act as prosecutors, judges and executioners.

For any State officer to countenance such crimes affirmatively would be made a Federal crime punishable by imprisonment of from five years to life.

The Federal courts would have jurisdiction to try and punish, in accordance with the law of the State where the injury was inflicted, all persons participating therein where the State instrumentalities of justice gave ample evidence of their inability [illegible] unwillingness to enforce their own law.

Any county in which a person was put to death by a mob would forfeit $1,000, which might be recovered in a suit in the name of the United States for the use of the family or dependent parents of the victim, if any, and otherwise for the use of the United States.

In order to get around the possibility that a person lynched might be dragged from one county to another to avoid the law, both the county in which he was seized and that in which he was killed would be jointly and individually liable to pay the forfeiture provided.

Attorney General Cummings made known today that his legislative proposals for control of interstate crime would not include an anti-lynching bill.

"It is almost impossible to develop any interstate aspect to lynching," said Mr. Cummings. "Lynching is a problem by itself, but purely a local one and it must be handled as such. The Department of Justice, as such, is not interested in lynching legislation."

NEW YORK
WORLD
Telegram
JAN 5 1934

MOB FOES PUSH LYNCHING BILL

Cummings' Doubts Won't Deter Wagner and Costigan in Fight for Measure.

By Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—Attorney General Cummings' doubts as to constitutionality of federal anti-lynching legislation will not deter Congressional supporters of the Wagner-Costigan bill from their determination to fight it through to passage at this session.

This measure, its friends say, avoids federal intervention in State affairs except where local authorities have failed to protect persons in their constitutional right to due process of law. A milder measure, the Dyer bill, passed the House in 1922 but was killed in the Senate.

It is not known whether President Roosevelt will support the bill, although in his message to Congress he catalogued lynching among the crimes that "call on the strong arm of the government for their immediate suppression."

"Mob spirit must be curbed," Senator Wagner said today. "If local authorities are unable to halt a sudden burst of mob psychology, the federal government must be empowered to step in. Mobs can grow into serious proportions. Historically they have been known to sweep down governments before them. I think this measure will carry."

Ghost of Three-Day Filibuster Hangs Over Anti-Lynching Bill

International

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5. — The Democratic filibuster against a so-called "Republican force bill" in 1922 was recalled today after two Democratic senators, Wagner of New York and Costigan of Colorado, sponsored an anti-lynching bill.

1-6-34

The new measure followed closely upon the lines of the bill, fathered by the late Senator Henry Cabot Lodge (Republican) of Massachusetts, in the early days of the Harding administration. The Lodge bill died when southern Democrats tied up the Senate for three days by the most spectacular filibuster in memory.

The Wagner-Costigan bill was believed destined for a like fate if its authors try to force a vote upon it. Both measures provided that a county would have to forfeit $10,000 to the family of the victim if its officers failed to prevent a lynching. This was the provision that provoked the filibuster in 1922.

Then, Senator Harrison (Democrat) of Mississippi and the late Senator Oscar Underwood (Democrat) of Alabama led the filibuster. Harrison began it by objecting to routine approval of the Senate journal. No senator had ever made such an objection. He thereupon insisted upon insertion of the morning prayer in the journal. It provoked a roll call. Harrison lost. Then he made a score of different motions for amending the journal. Invariably he lost but he kept the Senate answering roll calls day and night until it finally abandoned the bill.

One southern Democrat promised a similar filibuster if any effort is made to force a vote on the bill.

"There is not the slightest chance in the world for passing such a bill," he said. "Why, it's out of the question even to talk about it."

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
January 6, 1934

Chamber of Commerce Board Indorses Citizens' Anti-Lynch Resolutions

Manager Beal Reports Definite Improvement in Business Conditions Here—Local Retailers Report Volume Is Holding Up Well After the Christmas Rush

The Board of Governors of the Chamber of Commerce, in its regular monthly session Friday night, went on record as opposing mob violence and giving full indorsement to the resolutions adopted at a mass meeting of Nashville citizens at the First Presbyterian Church last week, which condemned lynchings and mob action. The action of the board of governors was taken on motion of Leland Hume.

Other business of the board included the hearing of the report of R. B. Beal, manager of the Chamber of Commerce, and the reports of the chairmen for the various departments. Will T. Cheek, president, presided over the meeting, held at the Chamber of Commerce Building.

Mr. Beal's report covered the Chamber of Commerce's activities for nine months as the organization's fiscal year does not close until March 31. He reported a definite improvement in business conditions in Nashville, based on reports received monthly by the organization from the manufacturers, the Retail Merchants' Association, and other trade groups.

The report of the manufacturers on December 15, showed that employment in 100 industries was 17,186 against 16,517 in the same number of industries in 1929, according to Mr. Beal. Retail merchants had reported that business has held up well following the Christmas rush, and Mr. Beal also said the reports showed Nashville to be the only city in the Sixth District of the Federal Reserve Bank System to show a net gain.

Mr. Beal gave a review of the Chamber of Commerce's activities in directing and sponsoring meetings to give information on codes under the NRA, saying that a total of 1,337 meetings were held, attended by a grand total of 48,000 persons. The Chamber of Commerce also sponsored the "Buy Now" campaign under the NRA and assumed other authority at the request of Gen. Hugh Johnson, Mr. Beal's report set forth.

CONVENTIONS

Charles B. H. Loventhal, chairman of the convention committee, reported that a total of fifty-two conventions was already booked for Nashville during 1934 and some for the following year. He estimated that the convention delegates here during 1933, which totaled 50,250, and who stayed in the city for 113,270 convention days, had spent approximately $1,250,000 and that the convention delegates expected during this year will create new business for Nashville to approximately $1,000,000.

The reduction of automobile accidents and deaths from accidents and a reduction in fire losses had resulted from the Chamber of Commerce's safety work during eighteen months, it was reported by the safety committee of which W. E. Craig is chairman. The organizing of forty-three junior councils and safety patrols in the city schools and the introduction of safety programs that reached 150,000 school children were other achievements cited by the safety department.

The board approved the askings of the agricultural committee, of which Joe S. Boyd is chairman, for a budget of $1,800 to continue the work of the 4-H Clubs in Davidson County.

J. P. W. Brown, chairman of the unemployment relief committee, told of the committee's work in registering applicants for work and of its plans to further the unemployment relief situation. He likewise reported on the success of the garden project last summer, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, which gave work to 135 men and provided food for their families besides a large amount of food supplies, which had been turned over to the Davidson County Welfare Commission.

Bernard Evers submitted the report of the house committee, which has oversight of the operations of the dining-room and restaurant.

E. B. Stahlman, Jr., new president of the Kiwanis Club, and Jack L. Minton, new president of the Lions Club, were welcomed as new members of the board. Sydney Keeble, reelected president of the Exchange Club, and Henderson Baker, member of the Board of Governors, who has just recovered from an extended illness, were also welcomed.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
REPUBLICAN
JAN 2 1934

LYNCHING AND FEDERAL LAW

Prof Miller Skeptical of Latter's Effectiveness as Preventive

To the Editor of The Republican:—

It is the commonplace procedure in medicine that diagnosis of the disease must precede prescription for its cure. Lynching is a social disease which afflicts the whole nation. America is the only civilized nation on the face of the globe where this malady is prevalent. It has broken out in 44 out of 48 states within recent decades.

Lynching cannot be isolated as a specific disease, nor need we look for any specific cure. It is only the most virulent expression of the spirit of lawlessness which calls for generic rather than specific treatment. America leads the civilized world in lawlessness as it does in lynching. There are 15 times as many murders in New York as in London. Lynching is the most hysterical form in which lawlessness expresses itself.

A mob is an infuriated crowd of people possessed of the devil. It acts like any other demoniacal possession which sweeps its victims beyond all restraint of law or reason. The mob has no more intellectual restraint or moral amenability than the stampeded herd of swine into which the cast-out devils entered, when they rushed down a precipitious cliff and drowned themselves in the depth of the sea. There is no use to reason with the wolf why he has made the ewe bleat for the lamb. Nor need we argue with the aroused mob when it mutilates, lynches and burns the body of its human victim.

Why have there been 5000 lynchings in America during the past 50 years, and none in England? I mainly because the two peoples have different attitudes toward the sacredness and sanction of law. The vital question is, How can there be inculcated upon the conscience of the nation a keener moral sensibility by which it will surrender its boasted rugged individuality to the sanction and discipline of law?

This obviously cannot be accomplished merely by passing more laws. The impotence of the 18th amendment ought to convince the American people of the imbecility of enacting federal laws to cope with evils which find lodgment in individual taste, prejudice and passion. Lynching is murder. If we cannot enforce the law against murder, how, then, may we hope to enforce it against lynching?

The nation stands appalled at the enormity of this iniquity. Like an individual afflicted with the nightmare, it is paralyzed in the grip of this malady, is unable to move and has no language but a cry. The heart grows sick and the hands are palsied by this national malady which stigmatizes the nation and taints its reputation with dishonor and shame. In utter helplessness, we cry out, "What can we do for deliverance from the fangs of this poisonous serpent?" only to be answered by the mockery of the hollow echo, "What?"

And yet we are not wholly without hope. History abounds in atrocities of most revolting nature which have become outlawed by the conscience of mankind. The hanging of witches in New England was a hysterical possession which suddenly afflicted the people, and as suddenly disappeared. Lynching and mob violence behave in a somewhat similar fashion. Like the whirlwind it bloweth where it listeth, and we know not whence it cometh or whither it goeth.

It flared up about the middle eighties and raged for two decades with malignant fury, and then gradually subsided all but to the vanishing point. The curve declined from a maximum of 200 to a minimum of six in a single year. Now it seems whimsically to have broken loose again, yielding 28 grewsome instances in the year of Our Lord, 1933.

Mob violence may wear itself out entirely by the weight of its own absurdity and fruitlessness, as witch-killing did in New England. One thing seems certain—that federal law would have little or no remedial effect. Who would be rash enough to assert that the Dyer antilynching bill, had it been enacted into law, would have lessened the number of lynchings during the past decade?

When a committee of Chicago clergymen waited upon President Lincoln, urging him, prematurely, to issue the emancipation proclamation, that wise, inspired statesman replied, that if he could not enforce the constitution in the rebellious states, a verbal proclamation by him would have no more influence upon them than the pope's bull against the comet. A nation which pathetically fails to enforce the 14th, 15th and 18th amendments would stand little better chance to enforce its law against the mob than Lincoln his proclamation or the pope his bull.

The mob malady is a psychological affliction. The social physician must find an answer to Shakespeare's query, "Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased?" The malady is moral and the remedy must be of the same nature. Lawlessness and lynching in America will finally yield, not to outward compulsion of law but to the inner sensibility to sin.

KELLY MILLER.

Washington, D. C., December 22, 1933.

Lynchings-1934
Legislation Relating to.

4763

WASHINGTON, D. C.
TIMES
JAN 5 - 1934

ANTI-LYNCH BILL RECALLS BIG FILIBUSTER

By International News Service

The Democratic filibuster against a so-called "Republican force bill" in 1922, was recalled today after two Democratic Senators, Wagner of New York, and Costigan of Colorado, sponsored an anti-lynching bill.

The new measure followed closely upon the lines of the bill, fathered by the late Senator Henry Cabot Lodge (R.) of Massachusetts, in the early days of the Harding administration. The Lodge bill died when southern Democrats tied up the Senate for three days by the most spectacular filibuster in memory.

The Wagner-Costigan bill was believed destined for a like fate if its authors try to force a vote upon it. Both measures provided that a county would have to forfeit $10,000 to the family of the victim if its officers failed to prevent a lynching. This was the provision that provoked the filibuster in 1922.

Then, Senator Harrison (D.) of Mississippi and the late Senator Oscar Underwood (D.) of Alabama, led the filibuster. Harrison began it by objecting to routine approval of the Senate Journal. No Senator had ever made such an objection. He thereupon insisted upon insertion of the morning prayer in the journal. It provoked a roll call.

Harrison lost. Then he made a score of different motions for amending the Journal. Invariably he lost but he kept the Senate answering roll calls day and night until it finally abandoned the bill.

One Southern Democrat promised a similar filibuster if any effort is made to force a vote on the bill.

Brooklyn, N. Y. Eagle
JAN 10 1934

The Proposed Anti-Lynching Law.

Jointly sponsored by Senator Wagner of New York and Senator Costigan of Colorado, an anti-lynching bill is before the upper house in Washington. Despite the widespread and growing opinion that mob-murder should no longer disgrace American civilization, and the swelling conviction that many of the States are unable or unwilling to use their own processes effectively against lynching, the chances of the Wagner-Costigan measure are pretty dubious in the Senate, perhaps even more dubious in the House.

The bill is strong enough. "Any State officer affirmatively countenancing such crimes would be guilty of a Federal crime punishable by imprisonment of from five years to life." The Rolphs of the future would have to guard their tongues.

A State officer neglecting to protect prisoners, or neglecting to prosecute lynchers, on conviction, would be subject to a $5,000 fine or five years in prison, or both. And the county where a lynching took place would be fined $1,000 for the benefit of the families of victims. If no dependents were left, the United States would take the $1,000.

Some of these provisions may be regarded as too drastic or as not drastic enough. All are debatable. But we are sorry to see the Department of Justice trying to block all such legislation. Attorney General Cummings is quoted as saying:

> It is almost impossible to develop any interstate aspect in lynching. Lynching is a problem by itself, but purely a local one, and it must be handled as such. The Department of Justice, as such, is not interested in lynching legislation.

Which seems to ignore entirely the enforcement of the Fourteenth Amendment provision in the Constitution of the United States: "Nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." Twisted to other ends by interpretation, this provision had historically the one object of protecting the former slaves and their descendants, the racial stock that suffers most from unpunished mob-murders. If a State accuses John Doe of crime, takes him to prison to await trial, and then the State's agents permit a mob to carry him off and beat him to death or hang him or burn him alive, he does not get the "equal protection of the laws." The crime committed by a mob is a crime against the United States. But it is clear enough that the formula of Mr. Cummings, logical or illogical, will offer a rallying cry for those Senators and Representatives who come from lynching areas and are afraid of their electorates.

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
January 6, 1934

An Iniquitious Act

Senators Wagner of New York and Costigan of Colorado, have endangered the entire administration congressional program by introducing an anti-lynching law modeled after that which inspired the famous Democratic filibuster of 1922.

There is not the slightest chance that the bill will be passed with southern delegations unanimously opposed to it, as they are. Should Wagner and Costigan attempt to force the bill, they would unquestionably provoke another filibuster. Democratic leaders are already promising it if the force effort is made.

It is vitally essential that bills intended for speeding and improving the recovery program get first and major consideration. The injection of the proposed anti-lynching measure would be obstructive in the highest sense.

The Wagner-Costigan bill proposes the same punitive steps provided in the late Senator Lodge's measure of 1922, the removal of officers in counties where lynchings occurred, and payment of $10,000 to the family of the victim out of the county treasury.

Such a law, regardless of its specific provisions, would be an infringement on state's rights.

States are not going to relinquish to the government the right of criminal prosecution.

The proposed law does not reflect public opinion. With such a law in effect, public opinion of a nonco-operative character would actually defeat the very purpose of the law.

Aside from the lack of merit in the new bill, Senator Wagner, as a leading Democrat, ought to have known that the present is a most injudicious time for proposing it.

He well knows the temper of his southern colleagues, and for that matter, a great number from northern states, on the particular matter. Senator McKellar, three weeks ago, announced publicly that he would oppose, with all the influence at his command, the passage of such a law. A great many in the Senate are of like mind.

It was Senator Harrison who in 1922 guided and dominated the successful three days' filibuster against the Lodge bill. These gentlemen must be reckoned with.

If Senators Wagner and Costigan are in sympathy with the aims of their party and of the administration in working for a session as speedy, short and as harmonious as possible, they will quickly withdraw their bill.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
1-13-34

Six Anti-Lynching Bills are Introduced in Congress

House Gets Four, Including One by Mr. DePriest; Senate Gets Two

By LOUIS R. LAUTIER

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Delivery in person by President Roosevelt of his annual message to Congress at a joint session in the House at the opening of the regular session of the Seventy-third Congress last Wednesday was the highlight of Governmental activities here last week. Immediately afterwards, six anti-lynching bills were introduced.

Mr. DePriest

After a scathing denunciation of the unethical methods of banks, corporations, and speculators, the President turned his attention to

crimes of violence.

Crimes

"In the other category," he said, "crimes of organized banditry, cold-blooded shooting, lynching, and kidnaping have threatened our security.

"These violations of ethics and these violations of law call on the strong arm of government for their immediate suppression; they call also on the country for an aroused public opinion."

Four in House

In the House four anti-lynching bills were introduced. The first was by Representative Oscar DePriest, Republican, of Illinois. The other three were introduced by Representatives U. S. Guyer, Republican, of Kansas; Joseph A. Gavagan, Democrat, of New York and H. P. Kopplemann, of Connecticut. All were referred to the judiciary committee.

Two in Senate

Two anti-lynching bills were introduced in the Senate. One was introduced by Senators Edward P. Costigan, of Colorado, and Robert F. Wagner, of New York, both Democrats. It has the support of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The other was introduced by Senator Hamilton F. Kean, Republican, of New Jersey.

Anderson Still In

The President sent to the Senate about 120 nominations, including three Assistant Secretaries of State, two ambassadors, and 18 ministers, a register and an assistant register of the Treasury. Three collectors of internal revenue in New York State were also named, but none of the nominations was for the third district in New York City, a post held by Charles W. Anderson.

Resolutions

Vice-President John N. Garner laid before the Senate resolutions adopted at a mass meeting held on December 3 last at the College of the City of New York, New York City, under the auspices of three faiths—Catholic, Jewish and Protestant—severely condemning recent lynchings and favoring the passage of anti-lynching legislation.

Both anti-lynching bills and the resolutions were referred to the judiciary committee.

ROME, N. Y.
SENTINEL

JAN 6 1934

Federal Lynching Law

How to draw a federal anti-lyncning law that would be both effective and constitutional has long been a puzzle to those having in view the interests of law and order on the one hand and of the Negroes on the other. That Senators Wagner and Costigan have now succeeded in meeting those requirements in the bill they have introduced in Congress, may well be doubted. The police power was reserved to the states under the original constitution. Congress has evaded that clause in recent years by resort to the interstate commerce clause; but there is no connection between an ordinary lynching and interstate commerce. Murder within a state is punishable only by state courts under state laws. Lynching is merely aggravated murder. In one sense it is no more an affront to the nation than commonplace murder. What makes lynching a peril to our institutions is the fact that it is mob action which the public authorities too seldom seek to punish. It is a joint defiance of the laws and the constitutions by groups.

In an effort to surmunt the foregoing difficulties which are acknowledged as being too great for Attorney General Cummings to overcome by a federal law, the two senators go to the strange length of proposing that Congress severely punish any state officer who fails to exercise diligence in protecting those in his charge from mob assaults, or who neglects to do his part in apprehending and convicting those who, in passion and prejudice and without the safeguards of a trial, undertake to act as prosecutors, judges and executioners. For any state officer to countenance such crimes affirmatively would be a federal crime punishable by imprisonment from five years to life. The United States courts would have jurisdiction to try and punish, in accordance with the law of the state where the injury is inflicted, all persons participating in lynchings. And any county in which a person is put to death by a mob would forfeit $1,000 which might be recovered in a suit in the name of the United States for the use of the family or dependent parents of the victim, if any, or otherwise for the use of the United States.

Repeatedly the Sentinel has denounced lynching and it has commended highly the growing efforts of the governors and other authorities in many states of the South to prevent lynchings and punish those who join in the mob action. It has lamented the recent endorsement of mob rule by the governor of California. But it would greatly dislike to see any such curious enactment as is proposed by the senators in question. For why should Congres stop at lynching? Why not make it a federal crime for any and every state official to refrain from enforcing any and all state laws? Why not give the federal courts authority to enforce the laws of all the several states when the authorities therein show disinclination to enforce them? Going a step further, why not abolish the state legislatures and courts and have all authority center in Washington?

We should at least be consistent.

ABERDEEN, S. D.
AMERICAN

JAN 9 1934

FEDERAL ANTI-LYNCH LAW DEBATABLE

AS MIGHT have been expected following the barbaric display of mob violence in California last month, with its accompanying official approval, the current congressional session is to be asked for a law giving force to lynching denunciation.

Already such a measure has been drawn up by Senators Robert F. Wagner, New York Democrat, and Edward P. Costigan, a Democrat from Colorado, who introduced it in the higher legislative branch Thursday.

Should the measure be successful it would give the federal government the right to invade state jurisdictions at times when state and local officers refuse or fail to curb lynching. The Fourteenth amendment's guarantee of protection of life and of equal protection of the laws is the constitutional authority upon which the legality of the bill is based.

However, the measure's qualities as they pertain to the federal government's degradation of state's rights will create controversial factors endangering the possibilities of the bill's passage.

The tendency toward centralization of authority is not desirable under normal conditions, and although the proposed measure is aimed at stopping such disgraceful occurances as the one in California its passage would not be essential to the other states of the union in which laws are respected and officials make an attempt at enforcing them.

Perhaps it would not be advisable to place all states under further obligation to the federal government just because the head of one of the states used poor judgment.

The American-News is anxious to see mob law and lynching wiped out. It has vigorously criticized the incompetence of officials who have allowed such unwise methods of dealing with crime to progress.

But the American-News does not believe the federal government must hold a club over the state's heads to discourage mob violence. High-thinking citizens may bring about the desired conditions within their states by electing efficient, law respecting officers.

NEWARK, N. J.
SUNDAY CALL

JAN 7 1934

South Watches Anti-Lynching Move of Kean

Press in Dixie Supports Senator, New Jersey Editor Reports.

On a recent visit to the South, Benjamin B. Bobbitt, editor of the Monmouth American in Long Branch, discovered that Dixie was deeply interested in Senator Hamilton F. Kean's move for legislation that would make lynching a federal offense punishable by death. In a letter to the Sunday Call, Bobbitt writes:

"The senator's stand attracted more attention in the South than it has so far in New Jersey. Press comment was unanimously favorable. Thinking southern people feel humiliated by the blot upon their section's fair name which mob violence constitutes.

"Actually the shame is national. Senator Kean has laid the question before the country as to whether this 'vile form of collective murder' shall longer be countenanced. It is a peculiarly American crime. In England it would be deemed high treason to lay hands upon a prisoner of the crown.

"It is no less here. It exists because it has not been punished. When, however, the governor of a state applauds it, it seems time that we drop our deference to local sovereignty and have Uncle Sam deal with the inexcusable evil as it should be dealt with.

Mob Lawlessness Growing.

"The fact that in the last six months of 1933 there were twenty of these lynchings, whereas in all 1932 there were but eight, in 1931, 13; in 1930, 21; in 1929, 10, and in 1928, 11, indicates the need of prompt action to stem the rising tide of mob lawlessness.

"Senator Kean, with admirable judgment, has noted the economic angle by pointing out that if mob excesses are tolerated in one direction they will be manifested in others and that this lawlessness is an obstacle to the return of prosperity. 'Once life and property cease to be legally protected,' he well says, 'capital will fly away.' Surely none can question this.

"Leaving partisan politics entirely out of it, it seems to me that Senator Kean should have the active and vigorous support of all good Americans, particularly in New Jersey, his home state, in his timely and praiseworthy attempt to have the federal government wipe out this infamy and peril."

N. Y. HERALD

FEB 6 1934

Lynching Bill Hearing Postponed to Feb. 20-21

Ritchie and Rolfe Not on List of Witnesses Expected

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (AP).—A long list of witnesses who have asked to testify on the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill was announced today by Chairman Frederick Van Nuys, of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee, which is considering the measure. At the same time Mr. Van Nuys said the hearing had been postponed from February 15 to February 20 and 21, because some of the witnesses could not appear until that time.

Although Governors Albert C. Ritchie of Maryland and James Rolph of California were invited to testify, their names were not on the list because the committee had not heard from them. Among those listed were: Arthur Garfield Hays, New York attorney; Bishop Francis McConnell, of New York; representatives of the Writers' League Against Lynching, including Harry Hansen, Fannie Hurst, Heywood Broun, Stuart Chase and Faith Baldwin; Mrs. Hannah Clothier Hull, president of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and Dr. Will W. Alexander, of Atlanta, director of the Commission on Inter-Racial Cooperation.

Lynchings-1934
Legislation Relating to.

4764

Waverly, Tenn., Democrat
January 4, 1934

ANTI-LYNCH LAW

There seems ~~to be a~~ big clamor for an anti-lynch law in this state. A big meeting was held in Nashville recently to further this move. Are the good citizens going on record as condoning vicious crimes? While we do not approve of mob law, in the general sense, there are some crimes committed that really need quick dispatching of the perpretrators. Every day the dailies are full of reported crimes where much ado-about-nothing is said about the fearlessness of some officers in protecting the offending scroundels. We put the case squarely. Would you and you and you like for some kidnaping bandit to seize your beloved young daughter, out-rage her and kill her, and then see the rascal "protected". These things are happening every day. And yet, so-called clearthinking people get up and make much of a hala-ba-loo about an anti-lynch law. We still have the same ideas of Governor Rolf of California. For whose benefit really are the laws? We would ask you that.

Age
1-20-34
New York

Lawyers To Appear In Washington To Back Anti-Lynching Bill

Eminent lawyers, authors and a number of prominent white Southerners have indicated their willingness to appear and testify before a senate committee and urge the passage of the Costigan-Wagner federal anti-lynching bill, it was announced here by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Charles H. Tuttle, former United States attorney for the southern district of New York, has agreed to go to Washington and present personally a brief supporting the constitutionality of the Costigan-Wagner bill before the senate and house judiciary committees. Other lawyers supporting the bill's legality will be Prof. Karl N. Llewellyn of the Columbia university law school; Dean Charles H. Houston of the Howard university law school; and Herbert K. Stockton, who presented a brief in 1922 on the constitutionality of the Dyer anti-lynching bill.

Supporters of the bill realize that the chief attacks will be upon the constitutionality of the measure and that many of these attacks will be sincere, and therefore distinguished authorities are being assembled to meet the attacks.

7TH ANTI-LYNCH BILL IS PUT IN CONGRESS MILL

[illegible] 1-20

WASHINGTON. — The seventh anti-lynching bill was introduced in the House last Monday. It was presented by Represenattive Emanuel Celler, Democrat, of New York, and was referred to the judiciary committee.

Other bills particularly affecting colored people, introduced in Congress last week included:

A bill by Representative William H. Sutphin, of New Jersey, January 9, incorporating the National Ethiopian Council of the Universal Order of Free Masons (Ethiopian Rites, inclusive). It was referred to the committee on the District of Columbia.

DePriest Has Bill

A bill by Representative Oscar DePriest, Republican, of Illinois, providing for pensions for ex-slave citizens of the United States, referred to the committee on invalid pensions.

A bill by Representative Thomas F. Ford, of California, last Friday, extending the classified civil service to include special delivery messengers, referred to the committee on post offices and post roads.

The bill introduced by Mr. Ford followed the presentation of a petition to the House of Representative Charles M. Bakewell, of Connecticut, from the National Association of Special Delivery Messengers, praying for a change in their present status as government employees so that they may have a civil service standing with a living wage. This petition was also referred to the committee on post offices and post roads.

Liquor Laws Repealed

Prohibition laws still in effect in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico were repealed by the House last Thursday. The bill was introduced by Representative John McDuffie, Democrat, of Alabama, on January 8. It was favorably reported the next day by the committee on insular affairs. A similar bill was introduced in the Senate by Senator Millard E. Tydings, Democrat, of Maryland. It is pending before the insular affairs committee.

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
January 10, 1934

Leave It To States

Revival of the federal anti-lynching bill is a natural consequence of recent lynchings, which attracted nation-wide attention.

It is considered illogical to cite the heinousness of crimes which provoke lynchings and suggest that the end of lynching will come with the end of the perpetration of such crimes.

Lynching is not to be condoned any more than any other law violation. It cannot be justified. It is better, in any event, to permit the law to take its course. Unfortunately the law sometimes bungles. Many states do not provide adequate punishment. Delay frequently results in loss of the lesson that swift and certain punishment would otherwise provide.

The number of lynchings is steadily on the decline. Ultimately, they will be a thing of the past. Occasional outbreaks of mob violence will be manifested as the public is aroused locally by commission of heinous crimes.

It will be a long time before the threat of mob violence in certain cases has been definitely eliminated. It is folly to say that the enactment of additional laws is the remedy.

In most cases officials do their utmost to protect criminals from mob violence. Having exercised every possible precaution, it would be unjust to make such officials victims of fines and imprisonment.

The question of the constitutionality of such an act also arises. The sponsors of the anti-lynching bill will have difficulty in citing the provision of the constitution which permits the federal government to intervene in the prosecution of an offense which is essentially a state matter.

The states are making progress in the elimination of lynching by speeding up the machinery of law. That, in the final analysis, is the solution, and the federal government should leave the states to their own devices.

Six Anti-Lynch Bills Are Silent On Death Penalty for Lynchers

DePriest Offers Mildest of Six Bills Aimed to Head Off Mass Demand for Real Action

Daily Worker
1-17-34
New York
N.Y.

By SEYMOUR WALDMAN
(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—Of the six bills "to punish the crime of lynching" introduced during the present session of Congress not one proposes that the death penalty be carried out against those who participae in either the [illegible] or taking of an individual from legal custody. In fact, with the exception of a very ambiguous sentence in Representative Guyer's bill, they make lynching an inexpensive pleasure.

Irrespective of whatever sincere notions the author of any of these bills may think he harbors, the passage of any one of them would help to build a legal wall against the Negro and white worker mass pressure for a federal law providing the death penalty for lynchers,—without any ifs or ands—as proposed by the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, whose platform is endorsed by the National Scottsboro Action Committee.

DePriest Offers Most Lenient Bill of All

It is signifiant that the most lenient penalty proposed for a State or municipal officer "who shall conspire, combine, or confederate with any person to put such prisoner to death without authority of law as a punishment for some alleged public offense" is contained in the bill of Representative DePriest, wealthy Chicago Negro real estate and brothel operator. Congressman DePriest would merely have such an offending officer removed "forthwith" from office to face a charge which might result in a fine not exceeding $5,000 or imprsonment not exceeding five years, or both.

All the others, with the exception of the Guyer bill,—the Costigan-Wagner, Gavagan, Kean and Kopplemann—provide that an officer who actually schemes with lynchers to deliver an unfortunate Negro or white worker into their hands shall be punished with a life sentence or not less than five years.

It is impossible to imagine courts in places like the Maryland Eastern Shore, Governor Rolph's San Jose, Judge "Speed" Callahan's Alabama and other bloodstained lynching picnic grounds of the ruling class, experiencing any difficulty in making the choice between life and something under five years.

To the framers of all the bills, an officer who cynically fails to use his authority to protect his prisoner from the mob, that is, who "fails, neglects or refuses to make all appropropriate efforts," to guard the unfortunate accused is considered guilty of a slight crime. He faces the slim risk of a fine not exceeding $5,000 or imprisonment not exceeding five years, or both. Under such statutes Negro and white workers may be presented with $5 or even $50 lynchings!

The proposal in the Wagner-Costigan bill — the broad provisions of which were formulated by the reformist National Association for the Advancement of Colored People — for fining a county $10,000 in which a lynching occurs is followed in all the bills. That is supposed to indemnify the family of the lynched.

Guyer Bill Also Silent on Death Penalty

Representative Guyer of Kansas City includes a provision in his bill which will give satisfaction to the unwary. He actually proposes that any person participating in a lynching mob "shall be guilty of murder." But he fails to say what degree of murder and what shall be the penalty therefore. "That section will have to be clarified," Mr. Guyer's office informed the Daily Worker correspondent. Decidedly.

"Death to Lynchers!" is the workers only "clarification."

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
January 19, 1934

IN WHICH MENCKEN GROWS TOO ENTHUSIASTIC

In Monday's issue of The Baltimore Evening Sun we find no less critic than H. L. Mencken cheering lustily.

He is cheering for the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, the contents of which should interest Alabamians— and warn them as well.

Some of the provisions of the bill are good.

Mr. Mencken thinks all of them are. We don't. One of them distinctly is sour.

However, here are the goods ones, as described by the Baltimore scholar:

> "The essence of the bill introduced in the Senate on January 4 by Senator Costigan of Colorado and Senator Wagner of New York lies in its transfer of jurisdiction from the State courts to the Federal courts. That transfer does not follow a lynching automatically; it follows only in case the State authorities show an incapacity or unwillingness to track dawn and punish the lynchers. If they are not apprehended or indicted within thirty days, or there is indication otherwise of "a failure diligently to prosecute them," the nearest Federal district court may assume that there is "prima facie evidence of failure, neglect or refusal," and proceed to issue warrants for the lynchers and try them "in accordance with the laws of the State."
>
> It will be noted that lynching itself is not made a Federal offense. It is defined as the act of any "mob or riotous assemblage composed of three or more persons acting in concert, without authority of law, for the purpose of depriving any person of his life, or doing him physical injury". but the butchery of the victim, if he is butchered, remains ordinary murder under the State law, and his manhandling, if he is not killed, remains ordinary assault and battery. Thus lynching is left in the category of common crime, where it manifestly belongs. Every person concerned may be prosecuted separately, and as if he had done the crime alone. He gains nothing by being in a mob.
>
> But the "failure, neglect or refusal" of the law officers concerned is made a Federal offense, and defined as a denial of that equal protection of the laws which is guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment. Any State officer who fails to "make any diligent efforts" to protect an individual against lynchers, or who "fails, neglects or refuses" to "perform his duty in apprehending, keeping in custody, or prosecuting to final judgment" all persons participating in a lynching, is guilty of a feolny, and may be fined not more than $5,000, or sent to prison for not more than five years, or both. If it appears that he actually "conspired, combined and confederated" with the lynchers, he may be imprisoned for life.
>
> Obviously, this bill has teeth in it. It lays no blame and no penalty on the honest officer who tries to do his duty but is overcome by the mob, but it fetches the fraud who offers only a formal defense, or who turns over his prisoner without any deefnse at all. Moreover, it is wide enough to take in district attorneys as well as sheriffs and jailers, and is even, I suspect, wide enough to take in judges. Any functionary, high or low, who is "charged with the duty of apprehending, keeping in custody, or prosecuting any person" concerned in a lynching may be brought to book, and if it appears that he failed in, neglected or refused that duty he may be sent to prison.

So far, so good. But here is where the bill grows hysterical and therefore silly: "There is further provision for damages for the heirs of the victim, collectable by a proceeding in the nearest Federal court against the offending county, or, if two counties be concerned, against them 'jointly and severally.' The amount fixed is $10,000, and is payable to the victim's wife and children, if he has any, or to his dependent parents. If he has no relatives the money is to be paid into the United States Treasury. In case the judgment is not met the Federal marshal may 'levy upon any property of the county,' or the appropriate ocunty officers may be haled before the Federal judge and jailed for contempt."

In his article Mr. Mencken says: "These heavy penalties will tend to dissuade the village bullies and morons who perpetrate nearly all lynchings," etc. Whereupon we are moved to inquire: If nearly all lynchings are staged by "bullies and morons," then why should the citizens of an entire county be held liable and fined for the crimes of a few bullies and morons?

Representative Dyer, of Missouri, three or four years ago introduced his infamous anti-lynching bill, the chief feature of which was a fine of $10,000 levied against the county in which a lynching occurred, the money to go to the victim's heirs. This bill was promptly killed, for it was unfair to the point of stupidity. Incidentally, Mr. Dyer's Congressional career ended in 1931.

Mr. Mencken concludes with the remark that the Costigan-Wagner bill "had better be taken seriously in the Bible Belt. It was drawn by two of the best lawyers in the Senate, and has long teeth, some of them ground to razor edge. That President Roosevelt is behind it is very likely, for he has twice denounced lynching in plain terms. Unless the friends of the great evangelical sacrament get busy promptly it may very well slip through the Senate and House. I advise the boosters of Moronia Felix, both clercial and lay, to call meetings of moral protest at once. If they dally they may be damned."

Well, The Eagle, for one, has already gotten busy. We have written the proper gentlemen in both the Senate and House protesting against the part of the bill which would fine ALL citizens of a county for the crime of a few "bullies and morons." We advise all who have read this to protest to our delegation in Congress.

No newspaper has opposed lynching more vigorously than The Eagle. We believe that the Costigan-Wagner bill contains the essential features to discourage it. But the additional $10,000 fine it proposes is wrong and unreasonable.

LEGISLATION IS URGED IN MOB LYNCH CASES

Constitution
2-7-34

Legislation to lift lynching cases out of "the local atmosphere" and provide for their trial in communities unaffected by mob hysteria was urged Tuesday by Dr. W. W. Alexander, director of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, in a comment on the St. Joseph (Mo.) incident.

"A state which cannot maintain the civilization of which it is the custodian," he added, "need not expect the government to respect its theoretical rights."

Referring to the St. Joseph lynching case, Dr. Alexander pointed out that the first man tried as a participant was acquitted and the attorney-general subsequently announced no further efforts would be made to convict others accused.

"This is the old story over again of the failure of courts to convict in cases of mob violence," Dr. Alexander declared. In the 1,880 recorded lynchings from 1900 to 1930, he went on, convictions were obtained in only 12 instances, or less than one per cent, in spite of the probability that in "hundreds of these cases—probably in most of them—the identity of members was well known in the community."

"Local courts and juries," Dr. Alexander said, "will not convict lynchers, even in the rare cases where officers have the courage to make arrests and grand juries the courage to indict.

"This condition indicates the imperative need of legislation which will automatically lift such cases out of the local atmosphere and provide for their trial in communities unaffected by the hysteria that incited the mobs in the first place. . . . The various state legislatures are quite competent to enact such legislation and in my judgment should do so at the earliest possible moment.

"Otherwise, it is reasonable to expect that the federal government will intervene and take over jurisdiction in cases of mob murder. A state which cannot maintain the civilization of which it is the custodian need not expect the government to respect its theoretical rights. The nation must rid itself of lynching. Technicalities must not stand in the way."

WITNESSES ARE CALLED IN LYNCH BILL HEARING

Constitution

Atlantan Among Those to Testify; Rolph, Ritchie Make No Acknowledgment.

2-6-34

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—(AP)—A long list of witnesses who have asked to testify on the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill was announced today by Chairman Van Nuys, of the senate judiciary subcommittee which is considering the measure.

At the same time Van Nuys said the hearing had been postponed from February 15 to February 20 and 21, because some of the witnesses could not appear at that time.

Although Governors Ritchie, of Maryland, and Rolph, of California, were invited to testify, their names were not on the list because the committee had not heard from them. Among those listed were:

Arthur Garfield Hays, New York attorney; Bishop Francis McConnell, of New York; representatives of the Writers' League Against Lynching, including Harry Hansen, Fannie Hurst, Heywood Broun, Stuart Chase and Faith Baldwin; Mrs. Hannah Clothier Hull, president of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and Dr. Will W. Alexander, of Atlanta, director of the commission on inter-racial co-operation.

Lynchings-1934.
&
N.A.A.C.P., Reports on.

4765

16 Lynchings Recorded in 1934, States NAACP

New York, Dec. 28. — Sixteen authenticated lynchings in 1934, or twelve less than the twenty-eight recorded in 1933, a decline of 42.85 percent, according to figures released by the National Association for the Advancement of colored People. All of the victims were Negroes and only two were actually accused of rape. Four accused of attemptem criminal assault; 4 accused of murder, and one each was lynched for associating with a white woman, mistaken in identity, knocking down a white man, writing a note to a white girl. "talking disrespectfully" to a white man, and stealing. Mississippi led with six lynchings: Louisiana. Florida and Alabama followed with two each. and Kentucky, Texas, Georgia and Tennessee had one apiece. Four of the victims were hanged, six, were shot to death, two were beaten to death, one was shot and hanged and 1 was stabbed, shot and hanged.

Lynchings were prevented at Angleton, Texas and Hernando, Miss., in January; at Ft. Collins Colo. in February; at Shreveport, La. in April; at Greenville, S. C. in May; at Thomasville, N. C. in November; and at Ellaville, Ga. and at Shelbyville, Tenn. in December. The Association praised Gov. Hill McAllister of Tenn., and Sheriff Tom Gant of Shelbyville Tennessee for their forthright action in preventing the lynching of E. K. Harris by calling out the militia and resisting the mob by gunfire. Eight white men were convicted for the lynching of Dick Wilkerson at Manchester, Tenn. June 24.

"The lynching record as compared with 1933 is better". declared Walter White, N A A C P secretary "due primarily to the fact that the fear of federal legislation caused complete cessation of lynching while the Costigan-Wagner bill was pending before congress. Two lynchings occured early in January and then lynching stopped until it was seen that Congress was going to adjourn without taking action on the bill.Then there was a great outburst. The Claude Neal lynching was one of the most sadistic in the history of 5068 lynchings since 1882, of which 45 have taken place since Presdent Roosevelt went into the White House. This year's record, and especially the cessation, proves conclusively not only that federal legislation is the only hope but that it can stop lynching. The formation of vigilantes at Shelbyville following the destruction of $150,000 court house is understandable but it is the clearest revelation yet made of how complete is the lack of respect for the state and the present local government in counties where lynchings break forth. Organizations with a total membership of 42,000,000 are therefore determined to make every effort for passage of the Costigan Wagner bill in the coming session of congress."

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16 LYNCHINGS IN 1934, 12 BELOW 1933 TOTAL

Association Report Lays Decline to Threat of Legislation— Federal Law Is Urged.

In 1934 there were sixteen authenticated lynchings, or twelve less than the number in 1933, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced yesterday. All the 1934 victims were Negroes. The importance of the adoption of a Federal anti-lynching law was stressed by the association.

"The lynching record as compared with 1933 is better," said Walter White, secretary of the association, "due primarily to the fact that the fear of Federal legislation caused a complete cessation of lynching while the Costigan-Wagner bill was pending before Congress. Two lynchings occurred in January and then lynching stopped completely until it was seen that Congress was going to adjourn without taking action on the bill. Then there was a great outburst.

"The Claude Neal lynching was one of the most sadistic in the history of the 5,068 lynchings since 1882, of which forty-five have taken place since President Roosevelt went into the White House. This year's record, and especially the cessation, proves conclusively not only that Federal legislation is the only hope but that it can stop lynching.

"The formation of vigilantes at Shelbyville following the destruction of the $150,000 court house is understandable, but it is the clearest revelation yet made of how complete is the lack of respect for the State and the present local government in communities where lynchings break forth. Organizations with a total membership of 42,000,000 are therefore determined to make every effort for passage of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill in the coming session of Congress."

The association praised Governor Hill McAllister of Tennessee and Sheriff Tom Gant of Shelbyville, Tenn., for their "forthright action" in preventing recently the lynching of E. K. Harris by calling out the militia and resisting the mob by gunfire. It pointed out that eight white men were convicted of the lynching of a man in Tennessee and that seven other lynchings had been prevented in 1934.

Only two of those lynched in 1934 were accused of attacks on women, according to the association. Four were accused of murder, said the association, and one was said to have "talked disrespectfully" to a white man. Mississippi led with six lynchings. Florida and Alabama had two each.

'34 HAS FEWER LYNCHINGS

Threat of Federal Law Causes Decline says NAACP

New York—There were sixteen authenticated lynchings in 1934, or twelve less than the 28 recorded in 1933, a decline of of 42.85 percent, according to figures released by the NAACP. All of the victims were Negroes, and only two were actually accused of rape. Four were accused of attempted criminal assault, four accused of murder, and one each was lynched for associating with a white woman, mistaken identity, knocking down a white man, writing a note to a white girl, "talking disrespectfully" to a white man, and stealing. Mississippi led with six lynchings; Louisiana Florida, and Alabama followed with two each, and Kentucky, Texas, Georgia and Alabama had one apiece. Four of the victims were hanged, six were shot to death, two were beaten to death, one was shot and hanged, and one was stabbed, shot and hanged.

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"The lynching record as compared with 1933 is better," declared Walter White NAACP secretary, "due primarily to the fact that the fear of Federal legislation caused a complete cessation of lynching while the Costigan-Warner bill was pending before Congress. Two lynchings occurred early in January and then lynching stopped until it was seen that Congress was going to adjourn without taking action on the Bill. Then there was a great outburst. The Claude Neal lynching was one of the most sadistic in the history of 5068 lynchings since 1882, of which 45 have taken place since President Roosevelt went into the White House. This year's record, and especially the cessation, proves conclusively not only that Federal legislation is the only hope but that it can stop lynching. The formation of vigilantes at Shelbyville following the destruction of the $150,000 courthouse is understandable, but it is the clearest revelation yet made of how complete is the lack of respect for the state and the present local government in communities where lynchings break forth. Organizations with a total membership of forty two millions are therefore determined to make every effort for passage of the ostigan-Warner anti-lynching bill in the coming session of Congress."

LAFAYETTE, IND.
JOURNAL & COURIER

JAN 2 1935

LYNCHINGS IN 1934

Sixteen lynchings in 1934 are listed in a report made public by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. This figure is 12 less than the list prepared by the association for 1933, representing a decline of almost 43 per cent.

Mississippi leads with six lynchings, followed by Louisiana, Florida and Alabama with two each, and Kentucky, Texas, Georgia and Tennessee with one each.

Walter White, secretary of the association finds that the decrease in number of lynchings is "due primarily to the fact that fear of federal legislation caused a complete cessation of lynchings while the Costigan-Wagner bill was pending before congress".

He notes that a great outburst of lynchings accurred as soon as it was apparent that congress would not act on the bill. Federal legislation, he says, is the only hope against lynching, as the fear of it successfully stopped the practice for a time.

In a report covering the year 1934, issued by the International Labor Defense, the number of lynchings is set at 25. This report includes lynchings in which police participated, which, it says, other reports, do not include.

Another report, issued December 28 by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, stated that only 15 lynchings had occurred in the course of last year. He listed only one lynching for Alabama.

LYNCHINGS DECLINE

Deaths Laid To Outbursts In 1934; One Charged Alabama

NEW YORK—(AP)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People reports 16 lynchings occurred this year, a 42 per cent decline from the 28 listed in 1933.

Walter White, secretary of the association, says in the report the drop is "due primarily to the fact that fear of federal legislation caused a complete cessation of lynching while the Costigan-Wagner bill was pending in congress."

An outburst of lynchings followed realization the bill would not pass, says White.

Mississippi heads the association list with six lynchings, followed by Louisiana, Florida and Alabama with two each.

The International Labor Defense lists the lynch toll for 1934 at 25, counting deaths, which, it says, other tabulators did not include because of police participation. Tuskegee Institute's annual report fixed the total at 15, charging Alabama with only one lynching.

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16 LYNCHED, N.A. A. C. P.

Reporter

1-5-35

NEW YORK, Jan. 3—There were 16 authenticated lynchings in 1934, according to figures released today by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"The record as compared with 1933 is better," declared Walter White, the association secretary, "due primarily to the fact that fear of federal legislation caused a complete cessation of lynching while the 'Wagner-Costigan bill was pending before Congress."

Governors of nine states, numerous mayors, prominent persons, and organizations with a total membership of 42,000,000 have asked President Roosevelt, in his opening address to Congress, to place the bill on the "must program."

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
January 5, 1935

PREVENTABLE LYNCHINGS.

One matter in which the United States showed highly gratifying improvement in 1934 is the record of lynchings. The record for the year showed 16 authenticated lynchings as compared with 28 in 1933, according to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. All the 1934 victims were negroes.

In reporting the record for the year the Association stressed what it terms the importance of the adoption of a Federal anti-lynching law. In fact the association attributed the improvement in the lynching record primarily to the fact that the fear of Federal legislation "caused a complete cessation of lynching while the COSTIGAN-WAGNER bill was pending before Congress." It is pointed out that two lynchings occurred in January and then they stopped completely until it was seen that Congress was going to adjourn without taking action on the bill, then there was a great outburst, the report says.

Thoughtful citizens throughout the country join with the Association in praise of GOVERNOR HILL MCALISTER of Tennessee and SHERIFF GANT of Shelbyville for their "fortright action" in preventing recently the threatened lynching of E. K. HARRIS, by calling out the militia and resisting the mob by gunfire. The Tennessee officials set an example highly worthy of emulation by other governors and sheriffs everywhere.

Incidentally the same sort of procedure inaugurated by GOVERNOR MORRISON early in his administration in 1921 and followed by GOVERNORS MCLEAN and GARDNER, subsequently, gave North Carolina an unbroken record of freedom from lynchings for a period of ten years or more.

The National Association of the Advancement of Colored People points out the significant fact that eight white men were convicted of participation in a lynching in Tennessee and that seven other lynchings had been prevented in 1934.

One highly important fact in connection with the lynching record for 1934 is that only two of the 16 victims were accused of attacks on women, according to the Association. Four were accused of murder and one was lynched, it is claimed for no graver offense than having "talked disrespectfully" to a white man.

It is not to the credit of Mississippi that it led the list of States with six, more than one third, of the total for the year. Alabama and Florida were the only other States having as many as two each.

Threatened lynchings usually can be prevented in any State by prompt and vigorous action on the part of sheriffs and governors, as has been demonstrated in North Carolina and Tennessee.

ALLENTOWN, PA.
CALL
JAN 8 1935

STILL TOO MANY LYNCHINGS

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Mississippi leads with six lynchings, followed by Louisiana, Florida and Alabama with two each and Kentucky, Texas, Georgia and Tennessee with one each.

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Another report, issued Dec. 28 by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee institute, stated that only fifteen lynchings had occurred in the course of last year. He listed only one lynching for Alabama.

Walter White, secretary of the Association for the Advancement of Colored People, finds that the decrease in number of lynchings is "due primarily to the fact that fear of federal legislation caused a complete cessation of lynching while the Costigan-Wagner bill was pending before congress."

He notes that a great outburst of lynching occurred as soon as it was apparent that congress would not act on the bill. Federal legislation, he says, is the only hope against lynching, as the fear of it successfully stopped the practice for a time.

Mr White, of course, may be mistaken as to the cause of the reduction in the number of lynchings while the proposed federal legislation was pending, but on the chance that he may be right such legislation is given merit beyond that which might have been expected. It is true that national legislation does not always prove a cure for the problems at which it is aimed but with the department of justice having experienced a re-birth perhaps an anti-lynching law would go far toward cutting down these mob crimes.

LA CROSSE, WIS.
TRIBUNE
JAN 4 1935

Still Too Many Lynchings

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Lynchings-1934

N.A.A.C.P. Press Reports on

4766

NEW YORK SUN

JUN 29 1934

LYNCHINGS NEARLY TREBLED IN 1933

Four Whites Included Among Mob Victims.

Twenty-eight lynchings known to have taken place in 1933 were almost three times as many as the ten in 1932, according to the annual report for last year of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, made public today.

There were five lynchings in Alabama, four each in Georgia and Louisiana, three each in South Carolina and Tennessee, two each in California and Mississippi and one each in Florida, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina and Texas. Four of those lynched, including the two in California and two of the three in Tennessee, were whites; the rest were Negroes. The twenty-eight were killed by shooting, beating, hanging, beating combined with shooting, hanging combined with shooting, and in one instances a combination of beating, shooting and manuel strangulation. The bodies of four were burned.

Here is the list of those lynched, all being Negroes except as noted:

Name.	Date and Place.
Fell Jenkins,	January 12, Homer, La.
Nelson Nash,	February 19, Ringold, La.
Will Kinsey,	May 14, Warrentown, Ga.
*Jerome Boyett,	June 9, Huntsville, Tenn.
*H. Winchestor,	June 9, Huntsville, Tenn.
T. J. Thomas,	June 13, Newton, Ga.
Richard Marshall,	June 16, Newton, Ga.
Norris Dendy,	July 4, Clinton, S. C.
....	July 15, Caledonia, Miss.
Joe Solde,	August, 10, Selma, Ala.
Dan Pippen,	August 13, Woodstock, Ala.
A. T. Harden,	August 13, Woodstock, Ala.
Doc Rogers,	August 27, Willard, N. C.
James Royal,	August 28, Decatur, Ala.
Paul Orthey,	Sept. 2, Panama City, Fla.
Richard Roscoe,	Sept. 18, Minter City, Miss
Dennis Cross,	Sept. 24, Tuscaloosa, Ala.
John White,	Sept. 26, Opelousas, La.
Bennie Thompson,	Oct. 8, Ninety-six, S. C.
Freddy Moore,	Oct. 12, Labadieville, La.
Geo. Armwood,	Oct. 18, Princess Anne, Md.
Sevie Davis,	Oct. 24, Lumpkin, Ga.
George Green,	Nov. 17, Greenville, S. C.
*T. H. Thurmond,	Nov. 26, San Jose, Cal.
*J. M. Holmes,	Nov. 26, San Jose, Cal.
Lloyd Warner,	Nov. 28, St. Joseph, Mo.
David Gregory,	Dec. 8, Kountze, Texas.
Cordie Cheek,	Dec. 15, Columbia, Tenn.

*White.

Lynchings at Rate of More Than One A Week Since June, N. A. A. C. P. Official Tells Pres. Roosevelt

President Roosevelt was told on Tuesday that "lynchings in the United States since June first have been at the rate of more than one a week". The telegram to the President was sent by Roy Wilkins for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People following the lynching at Michigan City, Mississippi, of Robert Jones and Smith Houey, and again urged Mr. Roosevelt to insist at the opening of the new Congress upon the passage of a Federal anti-lynching law. The telegram read:

Age

"Two lynchings in Mississippi yesterday bring the total for the year to fourteen with six of this total from Mississippi alone. This total is two more than the 1933 total to this date. Twelve of the 1934 lynchings have taken place since it became apparent that Congress was not to enact a federal anti-lynching law during its closing days. Lynchings in the United States since June 1st have been at the rate of more than one a week bearing out the prediction of this Association and others who urged a federal anti-lynching bill that lynchings would increase as soon as the threat of federal legislation was removed. The parade of bold mob murders since June first is further proof of our contention that the states are unwilling or unable to check lynching and that the only method left is the invocation of the power of the federal government to rid our nation of lynching law. We urge again that you insist at the opening of the new Congress upon the passage of federal anti-lynching legislation."

8-25-34

New York Age

Expect No Action by Mississippi

A second telegram from the N. A. A. C. P. office was addressed to Governor Sennett Conner of Mississippi relative to the double lynching at Michigan City. This telegram, also signed by Roy Wilkins, the Association's assistant secretary, follows:

"Double lynching at Michigan City, Mississippi yesterday brings total lynchings for year to fourteen of which Mississippi has accounted for six. This record simply demonstrates once more that the states cannot or will not stamp out lynching and proves to all the absolute necessity of federal legislation. We do not, of course, expect to hear from you on these lynchings nor do we expect Mississippi to do anything about them."

Six of the fourteen recorded lynchings for 1934 have occurred in Mississippi, according to the N. A. A. C. P. Robert Jones, one of the mob victims, recently had his conviction on a murder charge reversed by the Mississippi Supreme Court which granted him a new trial. He and Houey were being taken to the trial at Ashland, Miss., when masked mobs "overpowered" the officers transporting them.

The two Negroes were accused of robbing and killing Connie Gillispie, a white merchant, on July 2, 1933, and of fatally shooting Deputy Sheriff Mark Mason who came to Jones' home to arrest him without a warrant. In a widely quoted opinion, the State Supreme Court, in reversing Jones' conviction had held that "a man's home, however humble, is his castle," and that Officer Mason had no right to invade the Negro's property without a search warrant. But the mob thought differently, and in Mississippi the decision of the mob is final.

LYNCHINGS INCREASE SINCE CONGRESS QUIT

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TOLL OF MOBS MORE THAN 1 EVERY WEEK

Journal and Guide

Roosevelt Again Urged To Insist On Needed Law

8-25-34

NEW YORK, N. Y. — President

Roosevelt was told last week that "Lynchings in the United States since June first have been at the rate of more than one a week." The telegram to the President was sent by Roy Wilkins for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People following the lynching on August 14, at Michigan City, Mississippi, of Robert Jones and Smith Houey, and again urged Mr. Roosevelt to insist at the opening of the new Congress upon the passage of a federal anti-lynching law. The telegram read:

norfolk

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Sylacauga, Ala., Advance
January 3, 1935

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Walter White, secretary of the association, says in the report the drop is "due primarily to the fact that fear of federal legislation caused a complete cessation of lynching while the Costigan-Wagner bill was pending in Congress."

An outburst of lynchings followed realization the bill would not pass, says White.

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Birmingham, Ala., News
December 31, 1934

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New York Times

JAN 1 1935

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In 1934 there were sixteen authenticated lynchings, or twelve less than the number in 1933, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced yesterday. All the 1934 victims were Negroes. The importance of the adoption of a Federal anti-lynching law was stressed by the association.

"The lynching record as compared with 1933 is better," said Walter White, secretary of the association, "due primarily to the fact that the fear of Federal legislation caused a complete cessation of lynching while the Costigan-Wagner bill was pending before Congress. Two lynchings occurred in January and then lynching stopped completely until it was seen that Congress was going to adjourn without taking action on the bill. Then there was a great outburst.

"The Claude Neal lynching was one of the most sadistic in the history of the 5,068 lynchings since 1882, of which forty-five have taken place since President Roosevelt went into the White House. This year's record, and especially the cessation, proves conclusively not only that Federal legislation is the only hope but that it can stop lynching.

"The formation of vigilantes at Shelbyville following the destruction of the $150,000 court house is understandable, but it is the clearest revelation yet made of how complete is the lack of respect for the State and the present local government in communities where lynchings break forth. Organizations with a total membership of 42,000,000 are therefore determined to make every effort for passage of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill in the coming session of Congress."

The association praised Governor Hill McAllister of Tennessee and Sheriff Tom Gant of Shelbyville, Tenn., for their "forthright action" in preventing recently the lynching of E. K. Harris by calling out the militia and resisting the mob by gunfire. It pointed out that eight white men were convicted of the lynching of a man in Tennessee and that seven other lynchings had been prevented in 1934.

Only two of those lynched in 1934 were accused of attacks on women, according to the association. Four were accused of murder, said the association, and one was said to have "talked disrespectfully" to a white man. Mississippi led with six lynchings. Florida and Alabama had two each.

Knoxville, Tenn., News-Sentinel
January 10, 1935

Must Legislation

AMONG America's achievements last year were 16 lynchings.

This record is the more infamous in facts disclosed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. All of the victims were Negroes. Nine were taken from peace officers by mobs, four were accused of criminal assault and two of rape, four of murder, one each of the following: stealing, associating with a white woman, knocking down a white man, writing a note to a white girl, "talking disrespectfully" to a white man, "mistaken identity."

The record includes the Claude Neal lynching, probably the most sadistically barbarous demonstration of mob fury in the history of 5068 American lynchings since 1882.

It would be futile to blazon this dishonor if 1935 did not hold promise of something better.

Congress today has before it the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, holding counties financially liable for mob lawlessness in their borders. The very threat of this measure checked the lynch evil last year. While the bill was pending in Congress lynchings stopped completely, but when it became apparent that Congress would not act they broke forth with renewed frequency. It is believed that the publicity given the measure was responsible for a drop of lynchings from 28 in 1933 to 16 last year.

Organizations with total membership of 42 million people are requesting President Roosevelt to put the Costigan-Wagner bill on his "must" program. The Government should not longer ignore this evil, and the popular outcry against it.

DOTHAN, ALA., EAGLE
JAN. 1, 1935 17

TOTAL OF 16 LYNCHINGS REPORTED OVER COUNTRY BY NEGRO ASSOCIATION

NEW YORK, Jan. 1. (AP)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People reports 16 lynchings occurred this year, a 42 per cent decline from the 28 listed in 1933.

Walter White, secretary of the association, says in the report the drop is "due primarily to the fact that fear of Federal legislation caused a compelte cessation of lynching while the Costigan-Wagner bill was pending in congress."

An outburst of lynchings follower realization the bill would not pass, says White.

Mississippi heads the association list with six lynchings, followed by Louisiana, Florida and Alabama with two each.

The International Labor Defense lists the lynch toll for 1934 at 25, counting deaths which it says other tabulators did not include because of police participation. Tuskegee Institute's annual report fixed the total at 15, charging Alabama with only one lynching.

Lynchings-1934
N.A.A.C.P. Reports on.

4767

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
OBSERVER

JAN 5 1935

PREVENTABLE LYNCHINGS.

One matter in which the United States showed highly gratifying improvement in 1934 is the record of lynchings. The record for the year showed 16 authenticated lynchings as compared with 28 in 1933, according to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. All the 1934 victims were negroes.

In reporting the record for the year the Association stressed what it terms the importance of the adoption of a Federal anti-lynching law. In fact the association attributed the improvement in the lynching record primarily to the fact that the fear of Federal legislation "caused a complete cessation of lynching while the COSTIGAN-WAGNER bill was pending before Congress." It is pointed out that two lynchings occurred in January and then they stopped completely until it was seen that Congress was going to adjourn without taking action on the bill, then there was a great outburst, the report says.

Thoughtful citizens throughout the country join with the Association in praise of GOVERNOR HILL MCALISTER of Tennessee and SHERIFF GANT of Shelbyville for their "fortright action" in preventing recently the threatened lynching of E. K. HARRIS, by calling out the militia and resisting the mob by gunfire. The Tennessee officials set an example highly worthy of emulation by other governors and sheriffs everywhere.

Incidentally the same sort of procedure inaugurated by GOVERNOR MORRISON early in his administration in 1921 and followed by GOVERNORS MCLEAN and GARDNER, subsequently, gave North Carolina an unbroken record of freedom from lynchings for a period of ten years or more.

The National Association of the Advancement of Colored People points out the significant fact that eight white men were convicted of participation in a lynching in Tennessee and that seven other lynchings had been prevented in 1934.

One highly important fact in connection with the lynching record for 1934 is that only two of the 16 victims were accused of attacks on women, according to the Association. Four were accused of murder and one was lynched, it is claimed for no graver offense than having "talked disrespectfully" to a white man.

It is not to the credit of Mississippi that it led the list of States with six, more than one third, of the total for the year. Alabama and Florida were the only other States having as many as two each.

Threatened lynchings usually can be prevented in any State by prompt and vigorous action on the part of sheriffs and governors, as has been demonstrated in North Carolina and Tennessee.

PITTSBURGH, PA.
PRESS

JAN 9 1935

MUST LEGISLATION

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Congress today has before it the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, holding counties financially liable for mob lawlessness in their borders. The very threat of this measure checked the lynch evil last year. While the bill was pending in Congress lynchings stopped completely, but when it became apparent that Congress would not act they broke forth with renewed frequency. It is believed that the publicity given the measure was responsible for a drop of lynchings from 28 in 1933 to 16 last year.

Organizations with total membership of 42 million people are requesting President Roosevelt to put the Costigan-Wagner bill on his "must" program. The government should not longer ignore this evil, and the popular outcry against it.

TAMPA, FLA.
TRIBUNE

JAN 7 1935

Lynching Record "Better"

Listing the lynchings for 1934, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People remarks that the record for the year is better than that of 1933—16 lynchings against 28 the previous year. This improvement the Association ascribes to "fear of federal legislation," which "caused a complete cessation of lynching while the Costigan-Warner bill was pending before Congress. Two lynchings occurred in January and then lynchings stopped completely until it was seen that Congress was going to adjourn without taking action on the bill. Then there was a great outburst."

The Costigan-Warner bill had nothing to do with the prevalence or cessation of lynchings. Mobs intent on summary vengance don't stop to thing about what Congress may or may not do. The lull which the Association mentions just "happened so."

All the 1934 victims were negroes. Only two were for attacks on women. Mississippi led with six, Florida and Alabama coming second with two each. One of the Florida lynchings was that of Claude Neal, which the Association characterizes as "one of the most sadistic in the history of 5,068 lynchings since 1882;" the other the inexcusable and unpunished killing of Robert Johnson, in this city last January.

In more than 5000 lynchings of which records have been kept, only 12 persons have been convicted of participation. The Costigan-Warner bill proposes to improve this record by having lynching cases tried in United States Courts.

Lynchings will continue to occur, with greater or less frequency, as long as human passions, inflamed by immediate real or imagined provocation, subdue human judgment and respect for law—and as long as attempted punishment of lynchers continues infrequent and futile.

Abbeville, S. C. Press and Banner
January 7, 1935

16 Lynchings in '34
42 Per Cent Decline

New York, Jan. 2.—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People reports sixteen lynchings occurred this year, a 42 per cent decline from the twenty-eight listed in 1933.

Walter White, secretary of the association, says in the report the drop is "due primarily to the fact that fear of federal legislation caused a complete cessation of lfnching while the Costigan-Wagner bill was pending in congress."

An outburst of lynchings followed realization the bill would not pass, says White.

Mississippi heads the association list with six lynchings, followed by Lousiana, Florida and Alabama with two each.

The International Labor Defense lists the lynch toll for 1934 at twenty-five, counting deaths which it says other tabulators did not include because of police participation. Tuskegee Institute's annual report fixed the total at fifteen, charging Alabama with only one lynching.

EW ORLEANS, LA
TRIBUNE

JAN 3 1935

Lynching

ONLY 16 lynchings occurred in this country during 1934, against 28 in 1933. That 42 percent decline takes its place as one of the happiest facts in the year's record.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People offers an interpretation:

> "The drop was primarily due to the fact that fear of Federal legislation caused a complete cessation of lynching while the Costigan-Wagner bill was pending in Congress. An outburst of lynchings followed realization that the bill would not pass. . . ."

We doubt that it was so simple as that. Community scum, the core of lynching mobs, usually knows little and cares less about national legislation still in the making. The Costigan-Wagner bill may have stirred more interest in some Southern villages than most Federal proposals do. But why should anyone hesitate to lynch somebody today because tomorrow or next day lynching will be more dangerous sport?

It seems to us more likely that the lynching recess was due in part to chance. The lynch-mania runs as incalculably as a mad dog, and with as little responsibility to the logic of time and direction.

This is not to say that the enactment of a Federal anti-lynch law would be futile. Once a law is on the books, its effectiveness becomes matter of enforcement and public opinion. The Federal government has now a potent police force, and most people, on sane days, loathe lynching.

Haverhill Mass
Gazette

1935

Lynchings in 1934

To the Editor The Gazette:—I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside the jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1;

The states in which lynching occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

(Signed) R. R. MOTON
President.
Tuskegee Institute.

KNOXVILLE, TENN.
NEWS SENTINEL

JAN 10 1935

Must Legislation

AMONG America's achievements last year were 16 lynchings.

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The record includes the Claude Neal lynching, probably the most sadistically barbarous demonstration of mob fury in the history of 5068 American lynchings since 1882.

It would be futile to blazon this dishonor if 1935 did not hold promise of something better.

Congress today has before it the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, holding counties financially liable for mob lawlessness in their borders. The very threat of this measure checked the lynch evil last year. While the bill was pending in Congress lynchings stopped completely, but when it became apparent that Congress would not act they broke forth with renewed frequency. It is believed that the publicity given the measure was responsible for a drop of lynchings from 28 in 1933 to 16 last year.

Organizations with total membership of 42 million people are requesting President Roosevelt to put the Costigan-Wagner bill on his "must" program. The Government should not longer ignore this evil, and the popular outcry against it.

BUFFALO, N. Y.
TIMES

JAN 13 1935

MUST LEGISLATION

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ROCHESTER, N. Y.
TIMES UNION

JAN 10 1935

REGARDING LYNCHINGS

Editor, The Times-Union:

WHEN I read the statement issued last week by R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, on the number of lynchings in 1934, I questioned the truth of his figures as I had seen figures last fall in excess of those he purported to be final for the entire year. It is true that there were fewer lynchings this year than last, but the increasing ferocity of the lynch mobs (reflecting the increasingly bitter economic struggle for jobs between the Southern white workers and the Negro workers) and the rarity of prompt action, if any, by the white authorities to save the victims,, makes Mr. Moton's apology for these same white authorities particularly unsavory.

There were twenty-five lynchings recorded in 1934, according to a compilation made by the International Labor Defense, and released on Jan. 2. All the victims were Negroes. This figure of recorded lynchings compared with 49 for 1933 (two not recorded until January, 1934), and 37 in 1932. The figures are not claimed to be inclusive of all the lynchings which occurred during 1934, but only of those which were recorded in the press, with the addition of two about which no news report was ever published. Information of these was obtained by the International Labor Defense through private sources. An indication of the incompleteness of the record is afforded in the fact that information about several of these lynchings was only published in the press weeks and months after their occurrence.

The I. L. D. record shows that Mississippi heads the list, with eight lynchings, followed by Louisiana with four, Georgia and Florida with three each, Alabama with two, and Kentucky, New York (the Davis-Fisher case of Niagara Falls which will be appealed this month in Rochester by the I. L. D.) South Carolina, Texas, and Tennessee with one each. In fifteen of the lynchings, implication of police or sheriff's officers was shown. In seven cases the victims were turned over to the lynchers by officers in whose charge they were,, in six police or officers participated directly, in one the officer was conveniently out of town and left the jail unguarded, and in one case the authorities catagorically refused to investigate the lynching. In sixteen cases the lynchings recorded, no "mobs" were found, but the lynchings were carried out by small groups of individuals, or by a small, carefully organized gang often with county officers at the head.

The addition to this list of the number of Negroes murdered by individuals imbued with the lynch-spirit, or by wanton police, confident that no punishment would follow their act, would bring it up into the hundreds. This method of terrorizing Negroes for the purpose of keeping them in economic subjection—the purpose behind all lynchings—has become more and more common all over the country, to a certain extent taking the place of spectacular mob lynchings

V. ROSENBERG,
International Labor Defense.
Room 215, 36 St. Paul Street.

Lynchings-1934
Prevented

Alabama

4769

NEGRO LIBERATED IN TUSCALOOSA ATTACK

Elmore Clarke Freed From Jail Here When Indictment Is Dismissed

Advertiser
5-25-34
Montgomery Ala.

TUSCALOOSA, ALA., May 24.—(AP)—A negro, charged with attacking a white woman and who narrowly escaped lynching by a mob last August, tonight was free and was believed to have left Alabama.

The negro, Elmore (Honey) Clarke, severely wounded by a mob that killed two negroes held with him, was released from the Montgomery County jail yesterday after Judge Henry B. Foster in Tuscaloosa Circuit Court had entered an order dismissing an indictment charging first degree murder and attack.

Clarke had been held in the Montgomery jail for safe-keeping since he appeared here several weeks ago after the attempted lynching to testify before a grand jury investigating the case.

He had steadfastly denied any connection with the case, and District Solicitor Edward DeGraffenreid in entering the motion to dismiss the charge, said the only two witnesses to connect him with the case, Dan Pippen, Jr., and A. T. Harden, victims of the mob, were dead.

When he appeared before the grand jury, Clarke said he was unable to identify any members of the mob that lynched Harden and Pippen and attempted to lynch him.

The negroes had been held in connection with the slaying and attack on Miss Vaudine Maddox, 21-year-old farm girl in a remote section of Tuscaloosa County.

Harden, the first taken into custody, officers said, named Pippen as the attacker and slayer. Pippen when arrested laid the blame on Clarke.

Feeling became intense when the negroes were called to trial on Aug. 2, 1933, and attorneys employed by the International Labor Defense sought to intervene.

A hearing was held, and Judge Foster ruled the attorneys for the ILD had not been retained. He then postponed the trial on motion of attorneys retained by families of the negroes and those appointed by the Court.

Feeling against the ILD attorneys was so intense they were given a military escort to Birmingham, to protect them.

Two weeks later, acting on a tip that an effort would be made to lynch the negroes, Tuscaloosa County deputies sheriff tried to spirit them away to Birmingham, but two carloads of men intercepted them just over the Jefferson County line.

Warning the officers to continue toward Birmingham, the mobsmen took the negroes in their cars and turned back toward Tuscaloosa.

A searching party found the bodies of Harden and Pippen, riddled with bullets, in a copse of pines near Woodstock, several miles from where they had been taken from the officers.

Clarke, critically wounded, showed up sometime later at the home of a negro friend, who notified officers.

The negro then told how when the mob fired a volley at Pippen, Harden and himself, shackled together, he had fallen beneath the other two.

The mob apparently believing all three were dead left, and some hours later, Clarke broke the handcuffs from the arms of the dead negroes and fled.

After he was apprehended, the negro was taken to Kilby Prison in Montgomery where his wounds were treated, and then appeared before the grand jury. He was returned to Montgomery for safe keeping, and the case dropped out of public interest until the announcement this afternoon that charges pending against them had been dropped.

Court attaches made no announcement of the action taken until Clark had ample opportunity to leave the State, if he so desired.

INDIAN HELD ON ATTACK CHARGE

Public Excluded From Hearing Of Habeas Corpus Motion

Birmingham
Age-Herald
4-26-34
Birmingham, Ala.

Chief Running Elk, Indian "medicine man," was ordered held without bond in County Jail on a statutory charge, following a habeas corpus hearing Friday behind locked doors in Judge J. Russell McElroy's courtroom. The Indian will be given a preliminary hearing soon in Bessemer Municipal Court.

Newspaper men and the public, with exception of several attorneys, were excluded from the courtroom by Judge McElroy as the hearing started, after having barred all except the principals, relatives of the girl, and attorneys. Judge McElroy notified reporters they would be permitted to remain in the courtroom only on their promise not to publish any details of the hearing. Newspaper men representing The Age-Herald, News and Post declined and withdrew from the courtroom.

Judge McElroy is the first Jefferson County judge in several years to hold a hearing of any kind behind locked doors, although a Circuit Court jurist is given this power by state statutes.

The Indian was placed in County Jail several days ago for safe keeping, following his arrest by Bessemer officers. He is charged with attacking the daughter of a guard employed by the county at Convict Camp No. 4, near Bessemer, two days after she had started work for the Indian.

HERALD
Dothan Ala
AUG 30 1934

Negro Fires Upon Mother, Children

Lynching Of Black At Columbia Narrowly Averted By Arrival Of Sheriff

Walter Toombs, negro, was lodged in the county jail late Saturday charged with assault with intent to murder after he had discharged a shotgun at Mrs. C. J. Haywood, her son, Travis Lee, 15, and her daughter, Sallie, 12, sprinkling all three with buckshot at the home of Mrs. Haywood near Columbia.

Lynching of the negro, who is said to have been intoxicated, was narrowly averted by Sheriff Joe Rollins and his deputies when they answered a hurry-up call from Chief of Police James Herring of Columbia late Saturday afternoon.

Herring had placed the negro in the small bastile at Columbia and when the sheriff and his deputies arrived an angry mob was milling about the tiny jail, some of them crying "lynch him." The crowd was increasing in size and it was evident that intention was to storm the jail when the negro was taken from the Columbia jail and brought to Dothan.

Toombs, it is said, had been to the Haywood place twice before the shooting and had threatened Haywood and his family. The last time Toombs left the Haywood home, Haywood went to Columbia to summon Chief Herring and while he was away Toombs returned and fired his gun at Mrs. Haywood and the two children.

ALABAMANS WATCH FOR FLORIDA "MOB"

Advertiser
12-23-34
Montgomery Ala.

ANDALUSIA, Ala., Dec. 22.—(AP)—Roads leading from Florida into Andalusia were being watched by officers today after threats of mob action against two white men and a negro held for safe keeping in jail here had been reported from Laurel Hill, Fla., where the men are wanted in connection with the slaying of a filling station operator.

Officers, while remaining on the alert for possible trouble, said "nothing out of the ordinary has happened and we expect nothing."

NEGRO KILLER IS HELD AS MOB SPIRIT FLARES

Suspect Is Spirited To Montgomery County Jail

Post
12-27-34
Birmingham Ala.

By United Press.

MONTGOMERY, Dec. 26.—Richard Goldsmith, 45, Negro, was brought to Montgomery County jail last night for safekeeping since his arrest in connection with the shooting of two white men at Fort Deposit Christmas Eve.

Guy Sellers, 24, was killed instantly and [illegible] Sheffield, 30, was wounded in the shoulder in an argument with four Negroes, Sheriff Buck Meadows, of Lowndes County said.

MOB REPORTED SEEKING THREE

Suspects In Killing Are Moved From Montgomery County Jail

Post
12-26-34
Birmingham Ala.

By United Press.

MONTGOMERY, Dec. 25.—Three murder suspects brought here for safekeeping were transferred secretly by police to an unannounced jail.

The three, two white men and a Negro, were brought here from Andalusia following reports there that a mob was forming to storm the jail. They are Thomas Kermit, alias Tobe Adams, 20; Bookie Meeks, 23, and Ed Davis, 27, the latter a Negro.

The three suspects were arrested last week at Opp, Ala., soon after the robbery and murder of John Steele, rural storekeeper near Laurel Hill, Fla. Police said strong evidence linked the three to the slaying.

A pistol of the same caliber as that used in the killing was found among effects of the suspects.

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3 SLAYING SUSPECTS HIDDEN BY OFFICERS

Reported Plan To Seize Trio Prompts Removal From Andalusia Jail

Advertiser
12-23-34
Montgomery Ala.

ANDALUSIA, ALA., Dec. 22.—(AP)—Chief Deputy Sheriff H. Beck Gantt said tonight three men, held in connection with the slaying of a Florida filling station operator in a holdup had been removed from the Covington County Jail this afternoon "when we heard a mob was on the way here."

Gantt would not reveal where the men were taken, but said "they're in another county."

Gantt said the purported mob did not arrive, but "we thought it best to be safe and get the men where they can't find them."

The report that a mob was en route here from Laurel Hill, Fla., scene of the slaying, came as roads from that section to Andalusia were being watched to prevent threatened violence to the trio.

Those held are two white men and a negro.

The three men, arrested yesterday at Opp, after the slaying of Trammell Steele by two holdup men Thursday night, were booked as "hold for Florida" at the Covington County Jail. Their names were not announced.

Chief Deputy Gantt earlier had said only "three or four of us are on duty in the Sheriff's office and at the jail," but it was pointed out that special officers could be sworn in at a moment's notice if the need developed.

Steele was slain by two robbers who told him they wanted to buy some candy. As he reached into the cash drawer for change, they fired.

At Crestview, Fla., where the three men will be taken for questioning in the case if Alabama authorities grant extradition requests, Deputy Sheriff McLoughlin said several mobs had formed and had threatened to take the prisoners from the jail at Florala, where Florida authorities apparently thought they were first taken.

ROADS WATCHED, FEAR LYNCHING

Two White Men And Negro Are Being Held For Florida Officers

ANDALUSIA, Ala.—(AP)—Roads leading from Florida into Andalusia were being watched by officers Saturday after threats of mob action against two white men and a Negro held for safekeeping in jail here had been reported from Laurel Hill, Fla., where the men are wanted in connection with the slaying of a filling station operator.

Officers, while remaining on the alert for possible trouble, said "nothing out of the ordinary has happened and we expect nothing."

The three men, arrested Friday at Opp, Ala., after the slaying of Trammell Steele by two holdup men Thursday night, were booked as "hold for Florida" at the Covington County Jail. Their names were not made public.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Breck Gantt said only "three or four of us" are on duty in the sheriff's office and at the jail, but it was pointed out that special officers could be sworn in at a moment's notice if the need arises.

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At Crestview, Fla., where the three men will be taken for questioning in the case if Alabama authorities grant extradition requests, Deputy Sheriff McLoughlin said several mobs had formed and had threatened to take the prisoners from the jail at Florala, Ala., where Florida authorities apparently thought they were first taken.

New York Evening Post

DEC 22 1934

ALABAMA GUARDS 3 FROM LYNCHERS

Trio Accused of Slaying Spirited From Town After Mobs Gather

ANDALUSIA, Ala., Dec. 22 (AP).—Two white men and a Negro were under heavy guard here today after mobs had threatened to lynch them at Florala.

The three were captured after a chase across swamplands following the slaying of Trammell Steele, owner of a filling station at Laurel Hill, Fla. They were placed in jail at Florala, but a rising feeling against them caused officers to spirit them away.

A deputy sheriff said several mobs had formed at Florala and Laurel Hill yesterday and had threatened to take the men from the jail. He said parties of men had hunted Sheriff Steele and his prisoners all day.

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 22 (AP).—The holiday spirit was dampened here today by fears of fresh mob violence.

Many felt that the day, bringing hundreds of Christmas shoppers to swell the usual holiday crowds, would see a crisis in the tense situation that has existed since rioting Wednesday caused four deaths and more than a score of injuries.

"There will be trouble here Saturday," said United States Commissioner Ed Nance.

Against that contingency 550 National Guardsmen were ordered to remain at least until tomorrow.

ALABAMA ROADS GUARDED

Florida Mob Has Threatened to Lynch Holdup Suspects

ANDALUSIA, Ala., Dec. 22.—(AP)—Roads leading from Florida into Andalusia were being watched by officers today after threats of mob action against two white men and a negro held for safekeeping in jail here, had been reported from Laurel Hill, Fla., where the men are wanted in connection with the slaying of a filling station operator.

Officers, while remaining on the alert for possible trouble, said "nothing out of the ordinary has happened and we expect nothing."

The three men, arrested yesterday at Opp, Ala., after the slaying of Trammell Steels by two holdup men Thursday night, were booked as "hold for Florida" at the Covington County jail. Their names were not made public.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Beck Grant said only "three or four of us" are on duty at the sheriff's office and at the jail, but it was pointed out that special officers could be sworn in at a moment's notice if the need arises.

N. Y. SUN

DEC 22 1934

GUARDED FROM MOB

Three Men Held in Alabama After Florida Murder.

ANDALUSIA, Ala., Dec. 22 (A. P.).—Two white men and a Negro were under heavy guard here today after mobs had threatened to lynch them at Florala, twenty-seven miles away.

The three were captured yesterday after a chase across swamp lands following the slaying of Trammell Steele, owner of a filling station at Laurel Hill, Fla. They were placed in jail at Florala, but a rising feeling against them caused the police to spirit them away.

Deputy Sheriff L. E. McLaughlin said several mobs had formed at Florala and Laurel Hill early yesterday and had threatened to take the men from the jail. He said parties of men had hunted Sheriff J. T. Steele and his prisoners all day.

The situation was quiet here early today with no sign of a disturbance. The police said they anticipated no mob action here.

Steele was shot and killed on Thursday night when two men bought some candy at his filling station and shot him as he turned to the cash drawer. The names of the three men here were not disclosed. Deputy McLaughlin said no charges have been placed against them.

Alabama

4799

Lynchings - 1934
Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Tragedies Mark Weekend In City; Victims Negroes

Advertiser
8-7-34
Montgomery Ala

Sunday in Montgomery, at least among the negro population, was marked by violence and tragedy.

An 8-year-old negro girl and her mother, of West End, were attacked by a tall negro man near their home, beaten severely, and criminally assaulted.

Willie Burnett, negro transient of Newborn, Ala., was drowned while bathing with two companions in a brickyard pond in North Montgomery.

Bennie Sykes, negro, of 8 Hearn Street, was stabbed in the neck by Memphis Dunn, negro, during a fight on Pollard Street.

Rosa Webster, negro woman whose home is on Pollard Street, was wounded during another altercation.

E. V. Davis, negro boy, was run over and possibly critically injured at Bell Street and Cook's Alley late yesterday afternoon. The driver of the car, Jim Barber, of Prattville, stopped his machine immediately and summoned a Loveless ambulance. Witnesses told police that the accident was unavoidable.

Several other negroes, whose names were not learned, were reported to have rceived injuries of varied degree during brawls in several sections of the city.

Police said that the 8-year-old negro girl who was assaulted and beaten near May Street, West End, was in a serious condition. Her mother was not believed to have suffered severe injuries.

Sykes and Rosa Webster were both expected to recover, according to attendants at a local hospital.

NAME BELL BOY IN STRANGE "ATTACK"

5-19-34

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (ANP)—Mystery surrounds the accusations of Mrs. June Daily, 25, white, that an attempt to attack her had been made by Nathan Johnson, 27, bellboy at the Morris Hotel, Friday.

Mrs. Daily and her husband were staying at the hotel, police say, and shortly after one a.m., he went for sandwiches. A few minutes later, the husband is said to have returned and walked across the room in the dark.

Before the husband realized what was occurring, a person who had been in the bed escaped. After an altercation with her husband, the woman stated that the bellboy had tried to attack her. Johnson was forced to flee for safety.

18-Year-Old Negro Held Here In Criminal Assault

Advertiser
Montgomery

Charged with an attempt to assault a white girl, Henry Barganier, alias Lester, 18-year-old negro, was lodged in the county jail yesterday morning by Deputies Addie Moseley and [illegible] Sellers. The girl is said to have been at a spring near her home at LaPine when the negro is alleged to have attempted to grab her. Although denying the charge, Barganier is said to have admitted seeing the girl at the spring.

Alabama Co-ed Eludes Attacker

Negro Captured After Girl Escapes Assault Attempt On Path At Tuscaloosa

Advertiser
7-21-34
Montgomery, Ala.

TUSCALOOSA, ALA., July 20.—(AP)—A comely University of Alabama co-ed today kicked her way out of the clutches of a burly negro, later captured, who attempted to attack her near her home on the outskirts of the city.

The negro was taken as posses swarmed over the countryside and feeling ran high.

He gave his name as Ed Banks to Solicitor Edward DeGraffenreid, and was quoted by the solicitor as having confessed to attempted attack.

Miss Mary Tate Kicker, 20, athletically-inclined senior in the College of Commerce, told of being accosted by the negro and of kicking him in the abdomen after having been thrown to the ground.

She was accosted as she walked along a path between her home and the bus line to town she said.

"The negro had a hammer and threatened me with it," she went on. "I kicked him as hard as I could, and then ran."

Persons living nearby spread the alarm and aroused residents began a search for the negro.

Solicitor DeGraffenreid said Banks was being held in the county jail. No plans had been made, he said, to remove him elsewhere for safekeeping.

Miss Kicker lives in Alberta City, a suburb, with her parents. She expects to graduate from the University at the end of the Summer term.

Sheriff R. L. Shamblin said more than 200 were engaged in the manhunt at the time of Banks's capture near the scene of the incident. Solicitor DeGraffenreid was with deputies when Banks was arrested and rushed to the jail.

Two negroes were lynched just outside Tuscaloosa County last Aug. 13 when they were taken from officers conveying them to Birmingham for safekeeping. They were under indictment for the murder of a Tuscaloosa County white girl who was slain after being attacked.

A third negro, Elmore Clark, also indicted in the case, and who made a miraculous escape from death at the hands of the same mob, was recently released from custody. Officials explained that the two negroes killed were the only witnesses against him.

The lynchings followed by 10 days the refusal of Judge Henry B. Foster to allow International Labor Defense attorneys to represent the three negroes. The attorneys were given a military escort to Birmingham after a threatening crowd formed about the Tuscaloosa courthouse.

Judge Foster, after the lynchings, said "outside interference was responsible for the entire affair."

No indictments have been returned in the double lynching of last August.

Attacker Given 20-Year Term

Negro Leaves For Kilby 24 Hours After Assault Attempt At Tuscaloosa

Advertiser
7-22-34
Montgomery
Ala

TUSCALOOSA, ALA., July 21.—(AP)—Less than 24 hours after a University of Alabama co-ed fought off his efforts to attack her, [illegible] Banks, negro, today was on his way to Kilby Prison, Montgomery, to serve a sentence of from nineteen and a half to twenty years at hard labor for his crime.

The negro entered a plea of guilty to an indictment charging him with assault with intent to ravish and Judge Henry B. Foster gave him the maximum sentence for the offense. The indictment was returned in a one-hour long special session of the Grand Jury this morning.

Sheriff R. L. Shamblin left immediately with the prisoner for Montgomery.

Banks, who also is known as Robert Michael, told officers he came to Tuscaloosa from Kilby Prison in April, following his completion of a five-year sentence for a similar offense at Jackson, Ala., in Clarke County.

Miss Mary Tate Kicker, 20, comely brunnette senior in the University's College of Commerce, identified Banks as her assailant shortly after his arrest last night.

Solicitor Ed DeGraffenreid announced Banks had confessed the crime.

Miss Kicker escaped the negro's clutches, after being thrown to the ground, by kicking him in the abdomen "as hard as I could."

She was accosted as she walked down a path, which she described as a "short cut" from her home in Suburban Alberta City to the bus line.

After freeing herself from the negro's grasp, the athletically inclined student dashed for help, and persons living nearby called police.

Banks's arrest followed within two hours. Solicitor DeGraffenreid, who accompanied the arresting officers to Banks's home, said the negro readily admitted his identity and the crime.

A throng estimated at 300 persons milled about the courthouse and the jail yard during last night, but no effort was made to take the negro from the jail.

GIRL FIGHTS OFF NEGRO AND PREVENTS ATTACK

Constitution
7-21-34
Atlanta

TUSCALOOSA, Ala., July 20.—(AP) A comely University of Alabama co-ed today kicked her way out of the clutches of a burly negro later captured, who attempted to attack her near her home on the outskirts of the city.

The negro was taken as posses swarmed over the country side and feeling ran high.

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She was accosted as she walked along a path between her home and the bus line to town, she said.

"The negro had a hammer and threatened me with it," she went on. "I kicked him as hard as I could, and then ran."

NEGRO ACCUSED OF ATTEMPTING ATTACK

Post

Three Intended Victims Identify Prisoner At Jail

Charged with assault with attempt to rape in three instances, Lonnie Dunning, 24, negro, [illegible] 15th St., n., was in Southside jail today after being arrested yesterday by detectives W. B. Helton and A. L. Appling, Motorscouts Dewey Murchison and D. F. Phillips and Sergt. H. A. Stapp in a wooded section of West End.

4-6-34.

Taken to city jail by Detectives Helton and Appling, the negro was picked from a group of four negroes and identified by three of his attempted victims, all white women.

GIRLS ACCUSE NEGRO SUSPECT

Occupants Aroused By Prowler During Early Morning

Post
8-1-34
Birmingham Ala.

A negro charged with attempting to attack a West End girl in her bedroom last night was held in city jail today.

Miss Frances Mahon, 19, 1405 Woodland Ave., the intended victim, has positively identified the negro, Police Chief Luther Hollums said.

The negro gave his name and address as Lonnie Wells, 300 12th St., s. He was arrested by a police scout car three blocks from the Mahon home a few minutes after the attack attempt.

"I awoke about 4 o'clock this morning and found the negro by my bed with his arms around me," Miss Mahon told police. "I screamed and the negro fled."

Sleeping with Miss Mahon was her 17-year-old sister, Mary.

The girls' father, Frank M. Mahon, was sleeping in an adjoining room. Two brothers were asleep in a nearby room. The screams aroused them and they chased the negro through the back door, by which he had entered. Thy followed him for a short distance and lost the trail.

Chief Hollums said that when the intended victim identified Wells, she had refused to identify a negro arrested a few minutes before.

Negro In Kilby In Attempted Attack

Advertiser
8-3-34
Montgomery
Ala

TUSCALOOSA, ALA., Aug. 2.—(AP)—A 19-year-old negro today was in Kilby Prison under sentence of 20 years for an attempted attack on a young white girl less than 30 hours after the alleged crime.

The negro, Matthew Washington, was arrested on complaint of the father of 10-year-old Mary James for whose father he formerly worked.

The attempted attack occurred on the James farm near [illegible] Tuesday afternoon. Washington was arrested a short time later and yesterday a special grand jury indicted him.

The negro was tried shortly after the indictment was returned was convicted, sentenced and started for Kilby Prison in slightly more than 24 hours after his capture.

In a signed confession, the negro said he had been planning the attack for some time, and when he saw the girl in a field Tuesday chased her.

The girl outran the negro and found safety in reaching her father at work in a nearby field.

NEGRO SPEEDED TO PRISON FOR ATTACK

Gets 20 Years In 30 Hours After Alleged Crime

Birmingham Age Herald
8-3-34

TUSCALOOSA, Aug. 2.—(Special.)—Swift justice today had sent Matthew Washington, 19-year-old negro, to Kilby prison to serve a term of 20 years for attempting to ravish a 10-year-old white girl.

The negro was in prison within 30 hours after the crime was alleged to have taken place. Following the precedent set here two weeks ago in a similar case, Solicitor Edward de Graffenreid worked so secretly that only those involved in the procedure knew about the trial.

The attempted attack took place late Tuesday when 10-year-old Mary James was carrying water to her father, who was working in a cotton field, near Alberta City, a Tuscaloosa suburb.

The negro, according to the evidence, jumped from behind a tree. The girl screamed and ran in the direction of her father. The negro abandoned the chase. Mary and her father identified the negro as a former employe on the farm.

Washington pleaded guilty after a grand jury called by Judge Henry B. Foster returned an indictment.

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gro Attacker Is Scared ff By Woman's Scream

Advertiser
8-6-34
Montgomery, Ala.

Police last night were notified that a negro had grabbed Mrs. Effie Moore, 32 Clisby Park, as she was walking between the Central of Georgia and Seaboard Air Line Railroad crossings in North Montgomery Saturday.

The woman said the negro released her the instant that she screamed for aid and that he fled into an alley on North McDonough Street.

Woman's Testimony Puts Negro In $1,000 Bail

Advertiser

On testimony by Miss Effie Moore, of Clisby Park, that Ed Carter, 21-year-old negro, had beat and choked her on the night of Aug. 4 as she was walking along the 600 block of North McDonough Street, the defendant yesterday was bound over to the Grand Jury from Recorder's Court. His bond was set at $1,000.

9-1-34

Miss Moore said she was walking home when the negro grabbed her and attempted to force her into an alley. Although he threatened her life, she said, she broke away and screamed. Fearing that he would be caught, the negro fled.

Montgomery Ala.

The attack was reported to police but it was not until last Saturday night that Carter was arrested and charged with attempted criminal assault by Motorscout T. H. Goins.

Woman Identifies Negro As Attacker

Advertiser
8-28-34

Miss Effie Moore, of 32 Clisby Park, who was beaten by a negro on the night of Aug. 4, has identified Ed Carter, 21-year-old negro, as her assailant, police announced yesterday.

Montgomery Ala.

The young woman picked the negro from a group of prisoners in the county jail, police said, but the negro denied the charge. Miss Moore told police the negro wore a gray hat at the time. The negro, when arrested, denied he possessed a gray hat, but officers searching his home said they found the hat there that answered the description given by Miss Moore. When the hat was placed on the negro's head identification was easily established, it was said.

The attempted assault occurred at night in the 600 block of North McDonough Street. Miss Moore was severely beaten, one eye being bruised and her lip split by a blow from her assailant. Her screams for help eventually frightened him away.

8-28-34

Officers also are seeking to connect Carter with an attack on a 9-year-old girl on North Lawrence Street about a week prior to the attack on Miss Moore, in which the girl was seized by a negro and carried a short distance before her screams caused him to drop her and flee.

WOMAN AWAKES TO FIND NEGRO IN BED

Post

Intruder Flees Through Window As Matron Screams

Police today sought a negro intruder who woke Mrs. Henrietta Pierce, 916 Seventh Ave., s., by attempting to choke her in her bed about 5 a.m.

9-15-34
Birmingham Ala.

The intruder jumped through an open window when she called to her son to bring a gun, Mrs. Pierce said. She told police he was in her bed with his hands about her throat when she awoke.

NEGRO FOUND GUILTY IN ATTEMPTED ATTACK

19 To 20 Years In Prison Given For Invading Girl's Room

Post

Tom Wells, 24, negro, was sentenced to from 19 to 20 years in the penitentiary by Judeg H. P. Heflin late yesterday for an attempted attack upon Miss Mary Mahon, 16, of 1509 Woodland Ave. A criminal court jury found the negro guilty after 15 minutes' deliberation.

10-5-34

Miss Mahon said she awoke during the early morning of Aug. 4, 1934, to find a negro in her room. When she screamed, she said, the negro fled. Wells was identified as the negro by Miss Mahon's sister, Miss Frances Mahon, who was sleeping with her.

Birmingham Ala.

Wells said he was up early to go go to work on an [illegible] truck and denied being in the Mahon house. He will appeal.

BOUND OVER IN ATTACK

News

Negro Waives Preliminary In The Shooting Of Woman

11-14-34

Joe Henry Bragg, 18, Negro, was bound over to the Grand Jury by Judge H. B. Abernethy Tuesday afternoon on a charge of assault with intent to murder after he had waived preliminary trial. Bond was fixed at $1,000. He is charged with shootng Mrs. Frank Slayton.

Birmingham Ala.

Arrested about two weeks ago, after Mrs. Slayton, the wife of a Birmingham mail carrier, was shot as she slept at her husband's side, police announced the Negro made a confession. He is said to have claimed he was paid $48 for the shooting.

NEGRO IS JAILED

Walker Man Accused Of Attempted Criminal Assault

JASPER, Ala.—Ccharged with attempted criminal assault of a Sumiton woman, Fred Hollingsworth, 36, Negro, was placed in the Walker County Jail here.

Birmingham

The Negro was identified by Flora Mae Bussey, 30, as the man who atempted to assault her near her Sumiton home Wednesday afternoon.

POLICE CLAIM NEGRO ATTACK CASE CLEARED

Post

Quote Woman Victim As Saying 'She Had Been On Party'

11-9-34

Police Chief Luther Hollums today announced that the attack case of Mrs. Mabel Roy, 18, of 517 25th St., n., had been cleared up by Mrs. Roy's admission that her original story that a negro had held her captive and attacked her was untrue.

Birmingham Ala.

Detectives W. E. DeGroat and H. H. Wier said Mrs. Roy told them she had been on a party and 'didn't remember who hit her on the head." Mrs. Roy told officers that she slipped in, hid her clothes, and then called for police.

WOMAN ACCUSES NEGRO OF ATTACK

Post

Victim Beaten About Head In Assault Case

11-3-34
Birmingham Ala.

An 18-year-old white woman was in Hillman hospital today with scalp lacerations and a possibly fractured skull after, she told police, a negro beat her over the head as she slept and then criminally assaulted her.

The woman is Mrs. Mabel Roy, who said that since her separation a year ago from her husband, Carl Roy, of Helena, she had been staying at 517 25th St., n.

She went to bed at 1 a.m. and shortly after was awakened by a blow on the head, she said. The negro, she said, threatened her life with a pistol and held a knife to her throat.

Detectives W. P. Elledge and O. D. Brown went to the house when she telephoned police headquarters. Officer E. A. Wilson, who also investigated, said two pillows on the woman's bed were blood-stained.

NEW "RAPE" FRAME-UP COLLAPSES IN ALABAMA

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — (CNA) Another "Negro rape" frame-up was nipped in the bud here last week.

Crusader News Agency
11-17-34 2162 Seventh Ave, New York

Mrs. Mabel Roy, 18 (white) reported to police that she had been "slashed across the head by a Negro intruder who held her captive for more than four hours."

Later, Mrs. Roy admitted that she went to a party about 1:30 in the morning and didn't remember who hit her in the head. She put her clothes under her pillow , set her imagination to work, and then notified the police that she had been "attacked by a Negro."

Lynchings-1934
Prevented 6

Arkansas.

4773

ARKANSAS NEGRO HELD AS ATTACKER OF GIRL

STUTTGART, Ark., June 21.—(UP)—L. D. Barnes, 20-year-old negro accused of assaulting an eight-year-old girl as she played near her home here today, was captured by a posse and placed under heavy guard in the Stuttgart jail.

The little girl was in serious condition, under care of a physician.

Officers expressed fear of attempted mob violence.

Ga.

MOBS MAKE THREATS AGAINST MURDERERS

Father And Two Sons Held For Death Of Taxi Driver

By United Press.

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark., July 18.—Because of repeated threats of mob violence against them, Frank Barnes, Hayti, Mo., and his son, Willie, who officers say confessed the slaying of C. A. Martin, 18, Blytheville taxi driver, were removed from the Blytheville jail last night for an unannounced destination.

Archie Barnes, another son, who, according to police, named his father and brother as the slayer's of the taxi driver, was removed from the Osceola county jail also. Mobs had begun to form in the streets of both towns, and officers were afraid the prisoners would be lynched.

Post 7-18-34

Lynchings - 1934
Prevented.

California

4774

New York Evening Post
JUN 12 1934

LYNCHING FEARED IN KNIFE MURDERS IN CALIFORNIA

Feeling Runs High Agains Prisoner After Five Are Hacked to Death

BRUTALITY OF SLAYINGS AMAZES VETERAN POLICE

SUSANVILLE, Cal., June 12 (AP).—Excitement over the mass slaying of five persons in Susanville—where killings have not been uncommon in the past—ran high today as officers guarded Peter Alosi, forty-five, suspected of the wild knife slaughter.

Reports of a possible lynching attempt by grim and silent lumberjacks and ranchers who gathered in the streets caused authorities to take special precautions. Six heavily armed deputy sheriffs kept watch at the county jail, where Alosi was held.

An inquest into the wholesale slayings—in which Joe Fazio, a country grocer; his wife and their grown daughter and son and a woman neighbor were slashed down—was set for today.

Amazed at Brutality

Veteran officers, who recall many acts of violence in this mountain valley, dating back to the time citizens of California and Nevada fought a boundary-line war on the streets of Susanville, expressed amazement at the slayer's brutality.

The forty-five-year-old grocer was hacked to death in the bathroom of his home and his body dismembered in the bathtub. His forty-five-year-old wife and their son, John, twenty-six, were struck down just outside the bathroom, apparently as they were about to intervene.

Outside the home, where they were encountered by the blood thirsty knife wielder as he fled under cover of night, were left the mutilated bodies of the daughter, Sadie, twenty-two, and the neighbor at whose home she had been visiting, Mrs. Lena Amistani, forty-two.

Murder Charge Planned

District Attorney Grover C. Julian said he expected to place a murder charge against Alosi, a lumber mill worker, who is said to have fashioned the razor-edged death weapon from a planing tool.

Alosi, reported to be a cousin of the slain grocer, repeatedly protested his innocence despite charges of officers that he was seen making the crude knife and was discovered washing blood from his clothes.

Authorities said Aloisi, who recently sent his wife and two children to Boston, was reported to have had trouble with Fazio. Neighbors said Fazio had objected to atentions Alosi had assertedly shown o Mrs. Fazio or her daughter.

Colorado.

Lynchings-1934
Prevented

4775

Mob In Colorado Foiled By Sheriff

Advertiser

ALAMOSA, COLO., Dec. 31.—(AP)—Quick action by Sheriff Maurice Smith, of Alamosa today saved Herbert Rankin, 25, held a suspect in the killing of Sheriff Adolfo Adolfo Rodriquez, of San Luis, Colo., from death at the hands of a mob of 200.

With a flying wedge formed by his deputies, Sheriff Smith rushed Rankin to safety from a San Luis Jail cell.

Angry Costilla County citizens gathered at the jail when Rankin and George Putnam, 28, were captured following the fatal shooting of Sheriff Rodriquez and the wounding of his deputy, J. P. Maestas, in a pool hall here. Both were wanted for questioning in the $80 robbery of a Taos, N. M., truck driver.

Rankin, slightly wounded, was held in the jail. Putnam, in a dangerous condition from a bullet wound, was brought at once to an Alamosa hospital.

"Lynch him," was the cry as the mob gathered about the jail.

Summoned by telephone, Sheriff Smith collected several deputies and rushed to San Luis. Pushing through the angry crowd, Sheriff Smith obtained custody of Rankin. He ordered his aides into a flying-wedge formation and shoved back to the party's motor car.

Once in the clear they sped to Alamosa. Rankin was placed in the jail here under guard. A guard also was assigned to the hospital in which Putnam was held.

COLORADO SHERIFF BALKS LYNCH MOB

1-1-34

'Flying Wedge' of Officers Carries Prisoner Through Angry Crowd.

Atlanta, Ga.

ALAMOSA, Col., Dec. 31.—(AP)—Quick action by Sheriff Maurice Smith, of Alamosa, today saved Herbert Rankin, 25, held as a suspect in the killing of Sheriff Adolfo Rodriques, of San Luis, Col., from death at the hands of a mob of 200.

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COLORADO MOB THWARTED

Angry Citizens Fail To Get Man Held In Sheriff's Death

ALAMOSA, Calif.—(AP)—An angry mob of citizens was thwarted Sunday at San Luis, Col., in an attempt to lynch one of two men held as suspects in the killing of Sheriff Adolfo Roderiguez and the wounding of his deputy, J. P. Maestas, in a gun fight.

The prisoner, Herbert Rankin, 25, of Gilman, Col., slightly wounded in the gun fight, was rushed here under heavy guard after a mob, estimated by officers at 200 persons, formed about the San Luis jail and threatened violence. 1-1-34

The other prisoner, George Putnam, 28, was seriously wounded in the gun fight, which occurred early Sunday at San Luis, and he was brought to an Alamosa hospital.

An armed guard was placed in the jail and at the hospital after Sheriff Maurice Smith, of Alamosa, said he had been told friends of Sheriff Rodriguez threatened to gain entrance to both places and avenge the officer's death. There was no demonstration at Alamosa, however, and the sheriff said he believed the jail was impregnable.

SIX ARE IN JAIL AFTER DISORDER

Telegraph

Colorado College Students Quiet After Threats Growing Out of Assault Case

4-17-34

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo., April 16 (AP)—Students of Colorado college promised Police Chief Hugh Harper today that there would be no recurrence of last night's mob disorders growing out the the beating of a co-ed and her escort by two Negroes.

Macon, Ga.

Six Negroes were held under heavy glard for questioning in connection with the attack upon Miss Georgia C. Lindley, 22, and James L. O'Brien, 19, both students at the college.

"We have six men in custody, and evidence obtained so far indicates at least one of them may be involved in the case," Chief Harper said.

Miss Lindley is in a hospital suffering from shock and facial wounds. Her attackers ripped her clothing and hit her blow after blow with the heel of her slipper.

O'Brien also was severely beaten.

Chief Harper and Police Inspector I. B. Bruce said doctors reported that Miss Lindley had not been criminally attacked.

About midnight last night, a mob of around 300 entered the Negro residential section and burned a figure in effigy. There was considerable confusion, but no attempt to harm any of the Negro residents, Chief Walker said.

O'Brien and the girl were returning from a country club dance when the two Negroes accosted them as they sat in a car in front of the girl's home. They forced the students to drive to an isolated spot where the beating occurred.

TOWN QUIET AFTER LYNCH THREAT FADES

Call

Calmness of Leaders in Colorado Springs Prevents Rioting

4-27-34

Kansas City

COLORADO SPRINGS.—As a result of the calmness and common sense of leaders of both races, this peaceful mountain resort and college town has resumed its quiet routine following a week of turmoil after the capture of two Negroes identified as the attackers of two Colorado college students early Sunday morning, April 15.

The afternoon following the beating and robbery of James O'Brien, sophomore student at Colorado college and the attempted assault upon his companion, Miss Georgia Lindley, senior at the same school, both of whom are white, local officers had apprehended George Williams, 21 and William Drew, 35, Negroes, in connection with the crime.

Mob Threats Subsides

Citizens became aware of the seriousness of the crime when on Sunday a mob of infuriated whites invaded a section of a Negro settlement firing pistols into the air and ending the demonstration by burning an effigy at the intersection of Costilla and Weber streets.

Leading citizens here say had it not been for the level-headedness of Negro leaders and their plea to members of their race for them hot to fire upon the mob unless the invaders fired on private property or trespassed in a threatening manner bloodshed might have resulted. The assurance of the police department that full protection would be given all citizens from violence did much to ally growing fears of a racial conflict. They handled a difficult situation in a commendable manner.

Remove Prisoners

Because threats of a lynching were being uttered both of the suspects and three other Negro prisoners were removed to the state penitentiary at Canon City for safe keeping. They are Ed Bell, Eugene Taylor and Earnest Smith, all in prison for minor violations.

The attack victims are recovering.

Lynchings-1934
Prevented

Florida.

MIAMI, FLA.
NEWS
MAR 24 1934

A Florida Contrast

One hundred heavily armed men of police and sheriff's forces stood guard the other night over a negro bellboy held in Jacksonville for murder of a city fireman. Machine guns, tear gas bombs, riot guns were ready to turn back any mob bent on lynching. A grand jury had returned an indictment promptly and an early trial was assured. Quite naturally threats of violence soon disappeared.

Dade county successfully averted a lynching recently, chiefly because of the prompt and vigorous action of the sheriff's department in pressing the search for a negro accused of criminal assault upon a white girl. It is true the negro was not captured and positively identified, although police recently killed an armed suspect in following up this case, but some negro, regardless of guilt or innocence, probably would have paid with his life to satisfy mob rage had it not been for the confidence inspired by officers of the law.

It is a pleasing contrast to the mysterious slaying of a prisoner in Tampa early this year while supposedly being transferred from one jail to another. That was a case of lynching or murder and there seems to have been no very strenuous effort to fix the blame. It is recorded as a lynching, although the account has strained the credulity of many. Results of the state's inquiry into the official conduct of this case are awaited with keen interest. One such miscarriage of justice may do more damage than a dozen instances of exemplary law enforcement can outweigh in the public mind.

Mob Threatening Jail in Florida

CHIPLEY, Fla., Oct. 20 (AP)—Sheriff John Harrell tonight reported a band of approximately 300 men had threatened to dynamite the Washington county jail here to get to two Negro women held in connection with the death of Lola Cannidy, 20, of Greenwood.

Sheriff Harrell said he was prepared to protect his prisoners with tear bombs, ordered sent to him from a nearby convict camp by the governor's office this afternoon when he appealed to it for aid.

Negroes Bound Over.

MARIANNA, Fla., Oct. 22.—(AP)—A coroner's jury today bound three negroes over for grand jury action in connection with the slaying of Lola Cannidy, 20-year-old Greenwood girl. The three negroes are Claude Neal and his mother and aunt, Annie and Sallie Smith.

TWO WOMEN HELD IN SLAYING CASE

Telegraph 10-22-34

Negroes Jailed in Connection With Death of Florida Girl, Protected From Mob

Macon Ga

CHIPLEY, Fla., Oct. 21 (AP)—Two Negro women held in connection with the slaying of Lola Cannidy, 20-year-old Greenwood girl, were removed from county jail today to Fort Barrancas, at Pensacola, after hundreds of men swarmed the streets all night threatening to destroy the jail unless the prisoners were delivered.

Miss Cannidy's body was found Thursday night by a searching party, half submerged in a pond near her home. Her head had been beaten in with a blunt instrument.

Claude Neal and the two women, Sallie and Annie Smith, his mother and aunt, were arrested near Marianna after officers said they found a blood-stained hammer and clothing in their home. Neal was taken to Pensacola Friday via Panama City after approximately 30 cars of aroused citizens bore down on one jail after another seeking the man.

Men Were Unmasked

Ready to protect the Negro women with tear gas bombs obtained from a nearby convict camp, Sheriff John Harrell said he remained on duty all night while crowds repeatedly begged him to give up the prisoners, and finally threatened to dynamite the jail if he did not do so.

The transfer was made by hiding the women on the floor of an automobile.

Sheriff Harrell said the men in the crowds here were armed with pistols, and knives, but were unmasked. Some of the men had been drinking, he said, and others wept as they pleaded with him to release to them the prisoners.

A coroner's jury is expected to return a verdict on Miss Cannidy's death tomorrow.

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
October 22, 1934

HIDE NEGROES FROM BIG MOB

Florida Officers Take Two Suspects to Fort.

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About daybreak, the sheriff said, more men came with acetylene torches, saying the Negroes were locked in the courthouse vault and they would cut through the metal to get them. Later, he continued, they gave up their purpose and left.

Fearing his supply of tear gas bombs would not be sufficient to repulse the crowd if it should return, Sheriff Harrell decided to send the women secretly to Fort Barrancas.

The transfer was made by hiding the women on the floor of an automobile.

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2 Negroes Held In Fort Barrancas

Advertiser

CHIPLEY, FLA., Oct. 21. — (AP) — Two negro women held in connection with the slaying of Lola Cannidy, 20-year-old Greenwood girl, were removed from the county jail here today to Fort Barrancas, at Pensacola, after hundreds of men swarmed the streets all night threatening to destroy the jail unless the prisoners were delivered.

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Mother and Aunt of Claude Neal Jailed in Florida

Pickens Finds Pair Had Been Held Month without Change of Clothing

Afro-American 12-8-34

STARTS MOVE TO GET THEM INTO NEW HOME

Baltimore Md.

All Belongings Destroyed; No Charges Filed.

PENSACOLA, Fla.—The discovery that the mother and an aunt of Claude Neal, Marianna lynch victim, had been held in the jail here for almost a month, without a change of clothing, was made by William Pickens, field secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., on a recent visit.

No charges were placed against the women, who had been held incommunicado since members of the mob lynched Neal, burned their home and destroyed all their belongings.

"Safe-Keeping" Is Excuse

The sheriff's only explanation was that the women were being held for safe-keeping "until things die down," although news of their confinement was greeted by expressions of the conviction that the purpose was to prevent them from giving out additional information in proof of the mob victim's innocence.

Despite the hardships which the two were known to have endured, citizens of this section expressed relief upon learning that the women had survived the abuses and insults of the lynchers. Mrs. Neal is an elderly woman.

Women Placed in Home

Immediate steps were taken by Mr. Pickens to enlist the support of residents of Pensacola and Mobile, Alabama, in a movement to effect the release of Mrs. Neal and her sister, and their placement in a suitable old folks' home.

Mass meetings were held in both cities, to which white residents were also invited, although only one white man appeared at each meeting.

The women of Pensacola were particularly active in their support of the plan and perfected the arrangements for the two unfortunate women to be taken care of until such time as they are able to find work and re-establish a home

4508

JACKSONVILLE, FLA
TIMES UNION

NOV 29 1934

Guardsmen's Stay In Marianna Cost Florida $695.50

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 28, (AP)—It cost the State $695.50 to send two companies of National Guardsmen to Marianna to quell mob spirit there last month that resulted in the lynching of a negro and threats to lynch a white man charged with killing a deputy sheriff.

A bill for that amount from the Military Department was approved today by the State Cabinet, and Comptroller J. M. Lee was authorized to pay it.

Two companies of National Guardsmen, from Tallahassee and Panama City, were sent to Marianna on orders from Gov. Dave Sholtz. They remained on duty for three days.

The negro, Claude Neal, charged with killing a white girl, was lynched before the troops were ordered out. After the guardsmen arrived at Marianna, they reported there was no further trouble.

Neal Women Not To Be Returned

To Marianna, the Scene of Lynching

SAYS COV. SHOLTZ

Mother and Aunt of Claud Neal

New York, Dec. 7—Gov. David Sholtz of Florida was urged today by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to prevent the return to Marianna, Fla., of Mrs Annie Smith, mother and Mrs. Sallie Smith, aunt of Claude Neal who was lynched there on October 26, after being kidnaped from the Brewton, Ala., jail.

The telegram, which was sent upon receipt of news from Pensacola that the two women were to be returned to Marianna to be tried as accessories to the crime for which Neal was lynched, stated:

Investigation has shown that neither Neal's mother nor aunt had even the remotest connection with the crime with which Neal was charged. To return these helpless women to Marianna which is still in a state of excitement and hostility is practically to invite mob vengeance either by physical violence of farcial trial upon these persons. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People vigorously urges that speedy action be taken to release them from custody.

In response to a telegram from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People urging that the mother and aunt of Marianna from Pensacola for trial in connection with the crime for which he was tortured and lynched on October 26, the following message was received yesterday from Gov. David Sholtz of Florida:

"Regarding your telegram of the 5th, States Attorney John H. Carter, Jr., Marianna advises me that there are no charges against Annie Smith and Sallie Smith and accordingly they have no intention of bringing them back to Marianna. He advises also that to avoid any possible danger these women are being held in Pensacola temporarily, with their own consent having no other means of support."

Lynchings-1934
Prevented

General.

4776

Knoxville. Tenn., News-Sentinel
July 12, 1934

LYNCHINGS DENOUNCED

Alexander Calls on Southern Officers To Halt Wave of Lawlessness

By United Press

ATLANTA, Ga., July 12.—Dr. Will W. Alexander, executive director of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, called on peace officers to halt the "epidemic of five lynchings in the last five weeks—in Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas."

"Southern sheriffs and other peace officers can prevent such occurrences if they will," Alexander said. "In nearly every lynching, there is either official indifference, sympathy or actual connivance. Southern governors, altho in some cases without special authority, can do much thru the influence of their office to strengthen the hands of local officials in putting down mob rule."

GREENSBORO, N. C.
RECORD

NOV 28 1934

Sheriffs Courageous.

A sheriff to the north of us, in Virginia, and one to the south of us, in South Carolina, both have given excellent demonstrations of courage and efficiency of late in the prevention of mob crimes.

But for the timely action of a sheriff and his deputies near Clifton Forge, Va., a mob, bent on taking the law in its own hands, would undoubtedly have lynched four negroes. Officers spirited the suspects away to safety. Now one of the negroes has confessed. He is in jail awaiting trial. His confession reveals that the other three suspects are innocent.

At about the same time the Virginia crime occurred, a few days ago, a sheriff and deputies prevented a mob from lynching a negro in Darlington, S. C.

Roundly condemning lynching from all angles, the Newberry (S. C.) Observer points out that one of the most tragic things about mob murders is the fact that not infrequently mobmen kill innocent persons. This is what came near happening at Clifton Forge.

The Observer cites a case which occurred in South Carolina some 15 years ago: "A mob howled and shot and exploded dynamite around the Spartanburg county jail in its determination to lynch a negro accused of outraging a white woman. Sheriff White filled the jail with armed deputies, and, taking his stand in the gate said; 'Gentlemen, I'd hate to do it, but I'll kill the first man that comes in this gate.'"

There was no lynching in Spartanburg. Subsequently, the suspect was tried, and it was proved that he was innocent as a new-born babe, insofar as the crime of which he was accused was concerned.

Lynchings-1934
Prevented

Georgia
6

4770

NEGRO HELD HERE FOR MT. VERNON

Bill Brinson, Charged With Murder, Brought to Macon for Safe Keeping

Telegraph

Fear of mob violence yesterday caused Sheriff E. E. Burch of Montgomery county to bring to the Bibb county jail for safekeeping Bill Brinson, Negro, who is said to have inflicted knife wounds which brought about the death of L. H. Reynolds, 24-year-old ex-marine of Mount Vernon.

1-3-34

The tragedy occurred early Saturday night at a filling station in the heart of Mount Vernon. Reynolds and Brinson, it is alleged, engaged in an altercation over an old pistol. After cursing Reynolds, Brinson stabbed the white man in the left side, witnesses said.

By-standers overpowered the Negro and held him until Sheriff Brinson arrived.

Macon, Ga.

The sheriff, learning from a physician that Reynolds was probably fatally injured, spirited the Negro away to the Laurens county jail. Reynolds died early Sunday morning, but would-be lynchers of Brinson were unable to find him.

Brought Here

Meanwhile, Laurens county authorities, fearing a raid on their jail, requested Sheriff Burch to take the Negro elsewhere. The sheriff, accompanied by his son, Willard Burch, Montgomery county deputy, and Leland Stanford, brought Brinson here late yesterday afternoon.

Sheriff Burch states that while no grand jury is scheduled to convene in Montgomery county before May, he hopes that a grand jury will be called in February by Judge Eschol Graham and that the Negro will be tried at that time. The February term of court will begin there on Feb. 5.

Reynolds is the son of L. H. Reynolds, Sr., Mount Vernon painter. He is also survived by two sisters, Mrs. Dessie Cox of Fitzgerald, and Miss Bernice Reynolds; and by one brother, Herschel Reynolds.

Funeral services for the young man were held Monday afternoon in Liberty Grove cemetery near Wrightsville.

Escaped Convict Is Held In Sandersville Slaying

Frank Johnson, Negro, Brought to Macon for Safe Keeping By Washington County Authorities After Mob Gathers Around Sandersville Jail

Telegraph

Charged with the murder of John L. S. Waller, night guard at the Washington county convict camp near Sandersville, Frank Johnson, Negro, escaped convict, was held last night at the Bibb county jail for safe keeping after a crowd had gathered at Sandersville following his arrest near there at noon yesterday.

6-11-34

Waller, aged 47, died in a Sandersville hospital Saturday afternoon of a fractured skull suffered late Thursday night when someone beat him with a pick handle and robbed him of a small amount of change and his pistol.

Macon, Ga.

Questioned by jail officials following his arrival here yesterday afternoon, Johnson declared that he knew nothing of the killing and that he had been in hiding in the woods about 15 miles from the camp since his escape Monday afternoon from the Washington county camp.

Waller, whose skull was crushed in two places, never regained consciousness and died without making a statement. He had held the job as night guard for two years and had never had a misunderstanding with his prisoners, it was said.

Robbery Believed Motive

Robbery was believed the motive for the crime. In a secret pocket on Waller's person, investigating officers found $75, overlooked by his assailant.

Johnson told officials here that he was serving a sentence of from seven to 14 years on a charge of burglary. He was sent to the camp in 1930 from Louisville. This is his second escape, he said.

While working at camp in north Georgia soon after he was sentenced he escaped and returned to his wife and children in Louisville. He was caught there after a short freedom and returned to duty in Washington county. Irked becaused he was relieved of his duties as cook and trusty at the camp Saturday a week ago, the Negro made his second bid for freedom Monday afternoon, he said yesterday.

Captured in Swamp

Warden Lawrence from the state prison farm effected the capture of Johnson in Williamson swamp near Davisboro about noon yesterday with track dogs. The Negro said that he was walking near a road when officers suddenly surrounded him.

An angry group had gathered in Sandersville immediately after Johnson's capture and he was brought here by Sheriff A. W. Smith and deputies from Washington county.

Officers said Johnson was suspected of the killing from the start. They traced him to the swamps where the trail was lost.

Funeral services for Waller will be held at Mt. Moriah church in Washington county this morning. He was unmarried and is survived by three brothers, George Waller, Maitland, Fla.; J. C. Waller, Harrison, and J. H. Waller, Sandersville; and two sisters, Mrs. S. T. Lord, Sandersville, and Mrs. J. L. Lindsay, Tennille.

NEGRO WHO ADMITS CLUBBING GUARD RUSHED TO MACON

MACON, Ga., June 12—(AP)—Frank Johnson, Washington county negro charged with slaying John Waller, guard at a convict camp, was held here for safe-keeping today after the gathering of a crowd at the jail in Sandersville led officers to remove him from it.

Waller, guard at the Washington county convict camp, was clubbed last Monday, the same night Johnson escaped, and died Saturday. The negro was captured, brought here and then returned to Sandersville yesterday by Sheriff Smith.

The sheriff said the negro confessed to clubbing Waller and taking his pistol. A large crowd gathered at the front of the Sandersville jail and deputies slipped Johnson out a back door. Sheriff Smith brought him safely here.

NEGROES ARE BROUGHT TO TOWER FOR SAFETY

Constitution

Two negroes were lodged in Fulton tower Wednesday night by Sheriff Mac Abercrombie, of Douglasville. They were placed there for safe keeping, he told Bob McCall, chief jailer. The negroes gave their names as Mack Cochran, 30, and A. L. Linley, 24.

6-28-34

Atlanta, Ga.

They are being held in connection with the murder in Douglasville, last week, of Dewey Cotton, a white man

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6-28-34

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NEGRO IS ACCUSED OF TWO SLAYINGS

Telegraph
7-10-34
Macon, Ga.

Joe Tucker Held For Murdering Meriwether County Couple Last Week

GREENVILLE, Ga., July 9 (AP)—A coroner's jury today ordered Joe Tucker, 35, Negro held for the slaying of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Hughes whose decomposed bodies were found near here yesterday.

Tucker was transferred today from the Newnan jail to Fulton tower in Atlanta ~~for safekeeping~~, Sheriff Collier, of Meriwether county, said last night, and was not returned here for the inquest conducted today by J. T. Sistrunk, justice of the peace and acting coroner.

The bodies of Hughes and his wife, aged about 53 and 50 respectively, were found by a searching party in a swamp after a hunt was organized Saturday.

Mrs. Hughes was last seen alive last Monday when she left the home of her mother, Mrs. Annie E. Chapman. Later her husband went in search of her and also disappeared. Relatives at first believed the couple had gone to visit friends and their disappearance was not reported until Saturday.

Badly Decomposed

Dr. R. B. Gilbert said the bodies were so badly decomposed, the exact cause of death could not be determined but he found nothing to indicate they had been shot.

Sheriff C. H. Collier expressed the opinion Mrs. Hughes was attacked first and her husband killed when he went to her defense.

Mr. and Mrs. Hughes formerly lived in College Park, Ga.

Evidence at the inquest today was to the effect that the last time Mrs. Hughes was seen alive it was at Tucker's home. Tucker's wife testified her husband told her Hughes killed his wife and then himself, and that he (Tucker) carried the bodies to the swamp.

Times
Athens, Ga., ~~[illegible]~~
August 22, 1934

Greene Negro Is Taken to Macon As Mob Gathers

Frank Kimbrough, Greene county Negro, is being held in Macon on a charge of throwing the rock with an automobile and hitting Mrs. O. P. Whitley, Madison woman who is in critical condition here.

Kimbrough was carried to Macon by Sheriff W. A. Reynolds when about 200 persons gathered about the Greene county jail Monday night.

The condition of Mrs. Whitley, suffring a crushed skull, was reported unchanged last night by St. Mary's hospital attaches. A Negro hurled a huge rock into the car in which Mrs. Whitley was riding near Union Point Sunday night.

Pembroke, Ga., Journal
August 31, 1934

Negro Attacker Spirited Away

An unidentified negro was spirited away to a jail somewhere in South Georgia late yesterday afternoon after he had been identified as the attacker of a white woman in Bryan county. The victim was attacked on a highway near Keller, a small community about eight miles from Ways Station, which eighteen miles from Savannah. It was learned that authorities planned to transfer the negro to another jail during the night.

The woman victim of the attack was traveling alone by automobile when she was forced to come to a halt by a tree limb across the road at a culvert. As she alighted from her car to remove the limb, the negro grabbed her and overpowered her.

Within a short time after the attack, the victim had notified officers. Chief Chapman and officers Winn and Ingram of the Chatham county police were among those summoned to the scene.

A negro answering the description of the attacker was captured within woods about a mile from the place where the attack took place, Chief Chapman reported. Tracking of the man was made easy, Chief Chapman said, because there were two toes missing from his right foot. The man was barefooted when arrested, it was said.

Sheriff H. G. White of Bryan county and other officers, together with a number of citizens, took charge of the negro, whose name could not be learned. They left with the man for an unannounced destination and despite close checks of jails in surrounding counties, the location of the prisoner could not be learned.

BRYAN COUNTY MOB FAILS AT LYNCHING

George White, a Former Inmate of the Insane Asylum Is Accused of

ATTEMPTING TO ASSAULT A WHITE WOMAN

Taken By Mob and After Severe Beating Mysteriously Escapes Death

(By W. Z. Webb)

It was learned late Tuesday that the boy who was reported mobbed by over 1,000 men in Bryan county last Saturday was safe in the county jail here, having been brought here for safe keeping.

George White, colored, age 20 and a native of Bryan county, section called Bryan Neck, was arrested Saturday by the sheriff of Bryan county, H. G. White, who it was said, rushed the prisoner to the Hinesville jail for safekeeping, having eluded the crowd and using the method of stalling to take the man back to the place in the woods known as the spot where the crime was committed, but instead carrying him on to another county for safe keeping.

The charge against George White was assault attempted upon a Savannah white woman. He is said to have been nude when he attempted the deed about one o'clock. However he was clothed when he was arrested, it was earned.

After it was learned that the general idea was to mob and that it had been avoided so far, the man was brought to this city for safe keeping in order that the law might take its course.

After several trips to the home of White in an effort to learn whether or not he claim that he was an insane man was true, all that could be learned was that he acted a bit funny many times, and had been an inmate of the institution at one time.

The Tribune will carry pictures of the victim of attempted mob next week.

Fitzgerald, Ga., Leader-Enterprise
September 13, 1934

Lee Fowler Taken To Another Jail To Prevent Lynching

✓

Lee Fowler, a farmer in the Williamson district, charged with feloneously assaulting his eleven year old daughter in their home Saturday evening, was arrested by Sheriff Wells and deputy Jim Fussell, when the news of the outrage was phoned into the sheriff's office by neighbors of the family.

Fowler has a wife and seven children, the wife and four children having visited neighbors, leaving the girl and two smaller boys at home with their father. Shortly after Mrs. Fowler had left the home, the father sent the two boys off on an errand and immediately assaulted his young daughter.

The boys hearing the cries of the child ran for their mother and notified her. Finding the child in serious condition, she was brought to the city and medical attention given her at the hospital by county physician Dr. E. J. Dominey, who pronounced her seriously injured.

The news spread about town and when Sheriff Wells returned with his prisoner about 1 A. M. a considerable crowd of men had gathered at the jail and it appeared to Sheriff Wells that to protect the good name of the city and county, he should take his prisoner to some jail removed from the scene.

Accompanied by Constable Maddox, V. G. Wells, Jr., Sheriff Wells took Fowler to another county, where he now is awaiting the action of Ben Hill Superior court, which convenes in October. A warrant for Fowler was sworn out by relatives. Fowler it is said had a life sentence for the murder of a negro near Danielsville and had served five and a half years in the chaingang in Madison county, when he was pardoned.

Ocilla, Ga., Star
September 13, 1934

Hides Man To Prevent Lynching

EX-CONVICT CHARGED WITH STATUTORY CRIME IS CARRIED TO OUT OF COUNTY JAIL.

Lee Fowler, 4 and father of seven children, was arrested Saturday night charged with rape, according to Sheriff V. G. Wells of Ben Hill county, who was called to the home of Fowler near Arp, Ga., and about 12 miles from Fitzgerald where the offense is said to have been committed.

From Sheriff Wells it is learned that Mrs. Fowler had left the home for a short visit with neighbors and had left their eleven years old daughter and two brothers at the home with the father. Some time later Fowler is said to have sent the sons on an errand and in their absence committed the crime.

Sheriff Wells and his deputy James Fussell, went to the scene of the crime arriving there after dark, and when called to the door Fowler is said to have been in a drunken condition, and is said to have admitted the crime.

From the sheriff it is learned that Fowler had served five and one half years of a life sentence when in February of this year he was pardoned, he having been sent up from Madison county for an offense of burning a negro alive in a house in that county.

Sheriff Wells also stated that Fowler was wanted in this county on an indictment charging assault with intent to murder, having broken the arm of a woman in the neighborhood in which they live, when he became angry with her.

Fowler was brought to the Ben Hill county jail, but while the Sheriff was on his way to secure Fowler the little girl and her brother had arrived at the jail to report the crime and the county physician, Dr. E. J. Dorminey, who had been called had rushed her to the local hospital. Her condition is reported as serious.

A large crowd had gathered when the sheriff returned with his prisoner and to avoid serious trouble Sheriff Wells rushed his prisoner to an unknown jail where he will be kept until feeling here cools.—Fitzgerald Her-

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NEGRO HELD IN KNIFING IS REMOVED TO TOWER

✓

Oscar Wilcox, 41-year-old negro Saturday was brought to Fulton tower from Rome by Floyd county authorities and confined here for safekeeping on a court order signed by Judge James Maddox, of Floyd superior court.

10-21-34

The negro is being held in connection with the slashing of Mrs. Pearl Keown's throat at Rome last Sunday night and was removed from the Floyd county jail when it was feared an attempt at violence might be made. The white woman is reported improving at a Rome hospital.

Lynchings-1934
Prevented

Georgia

4771

NEGRO SOUGHT IN ELLAVILLE KILLING TAKEN

Telegraph

Youth Listed as Charlie Dodson, Held in Undisclosed Jail, Sheriff Says

12-26-34

HUNTED AS CHIEF'S SLAYER

Macon, Ga.

Souter Shot Through Head With Own Pistol When Prisoner Breaks Away

ELLAVILLE, Ga., Dec. 25. (AP)—A 17-year-old Negro hunted as the slayer of Chief of Police W. B. Souter was captured in the swamps near here tonight and hurried to an undisclosed jail for safekeeping.

Sheriff E. C. Rigsby, who led the arresting posse, said the Negro had Chief Souter's pistol and told him after questioning that he shot the officer. The sheriff added that the pistol contained two cartridges but said the Negro made no attempt to resist.

Track dogs led the posse to the Negro's hiding place. Officers estimated that as many as a thousand persons had joined in the hunt since Chief Souter was shot Christmas eve while attempting to make an arrest.

Sheriff Rigsby said feeling against the alleged slayer led him to take the Negro elsewhere for safekeeping, adding that he deemed it wise to keep the location of the jail a secret. Officers listed the Negro as Charlie Dodson.

Citizens Aroused

The town was aroused by the killing of the officer and reports were that there might be violence if the Negro was captured by possemen if there was no officer present at the time. Feeling was running high and there were precautions against such action.

Chief Souter was killed by a shot through the head early Monday night shortly after he had arrested a Negro in connection with a Christmas eve disturbance.

No eye witnesses were found but Night Chief of Police Charles Pilcher said investigation indicated Souter was slain by his own pistol after it had been wrenched from its holster by his prisoner.

The crime cast gloom over the Christmas celebration in this South Georgia town of 700 population.

Funeral services for the dead officer were held at the grave by Rev. J. M. Dupree, pastor of the Baptist church of this city at 2:30 o'clock. Besides his wife and two daughters, he is survived by a brother, Walter Souter who resides in the rural section of the county.

SCHLEY COUNTY NEGRU IS TAKEN TO COLUMBUS

Constitution
12-27-34

ELLAVILLE, Ga., Dec. 26.—(AP)—A negro youth, quoted by Sheriff E. C. Rigsby as confessing the killing of Chief of Police W. B. Souter with the chief's own pistol, was held for safekeeping today in a Columbus jail, rushed there by the sheriff after being captured in swamps near here.

The Schley county sheriff, accompanied by a posse of citizens, took the negro into custody late yesterday after a search that had lasted about 24 hours. Police here said feeling was running high in this section against the negro, listed as Charlie Dodson, 17 years old.

The negro was armed with Chief Souter's gun when he was captured, Sheriff Rigsby said, but he made no attempt to resist the officer. The gun contained two cartridges.

Souter had arrested the negro Christmas Eve on a charge of stealing merchandise and as he was taking his prisoner to jail the negro is reported by officers to have jerked Souter's gun from him and shot him. The chief died instantly and Dodson fled.

Chief Souter was buried here yesterday.

NEGRO KILLER HIDDEN FROM GEORGIA MOB

Post

Youth Jailed For Slaying Ellaville Policeman

12-27-34

By United Press.

ELLAVILE, Ga., Dec. 26.—Charlie Dotson, 17-year-old Negro suspected of slaying Police Chief W. B. Souter, was held today in an undisclosed jail to which he was rushed to prevent threatened mob violence.

Dotson, hunted by bloodhounds and posses since Souter was shot to death Monday night, was found hiding in a swamp last night by Sheriff E. C. Rigsby and other officers. The sheriff declined to reveal where had had taken Dotson, saying he had removed him to another county for safekeeping.

He said the Negro admitted killing Souter, but gave no reason.

POSSE CAPTURES OFFICER'S SLAYER

Constitution
12-26-34

Alleged Killer of Ellaville Police Chief Taken in Swamp.

Atlanta Ga

ELLAVILLE, Ga., Dec. 25.—(AP)—A young negro hunted as the slayer of Chief of Police W. B. Souter was reported captured in the swamplands several miles from here early tonight and taken to an undisclosed jail for safe keeping.

Officials at the jail here confirmed the report that the negro had been captured but declined to give any details either about the arrest or as to where he was taken. Sheriff E. C. Rigsby, who led the hunting posse, had not returned to his office and was not expected here tonight.

Earlier, possemen returning from the search reported that the dogs used in the hunt had lost the trail and that the negro apparently had escaped.

The town was aroused by the killing of the officer and reports were that there might be violence if the negro was captured by possemen if there was no officer present at the time. Feeling was running high and there were precautions against such action.

Funeral services for the slain chief were held today.

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Constitution
12-27-34

ELLAVILLE, Ga., Dec. 26.—(AP)—A negro youth, quoted by Sheriff E. C. Rigsby as confessing the killing of Chief of Police W. B. Souter with the chief's own pistol, was held for safekeeping today in a Columbus jail, rushed there by the sheriff after being captured in swamps near here.

The Schley county sheriff, accompanied by a posse of citizens, took the negro into custody late yesterday after a search that had lasted about 24 hours. Police here said feeling was running high in this section against the negro, listed as Charlie Dodson, 17 years old.

The negro was armed with Chief Souter's gun when he was captured, Sheriff Rigsby said, but he made no attempt to resist the officer. The gun contained two cartridges.

Souter had arrested the negro Christmas Eve on a charge of stealing merchandise and as he was taking his prisoner to jail the negro is reported by officers to have jerked Souter's gun from him and shot him. The chief died instantly and Dodson fled.

Chief Souter was buried here yesterday.

Lynchings-1934
6
Prevented

Illinois.

4777

Officers Save Negro From Mob in Illinois

Constitution
3-25-34

HARRISBURG, Ill., March 24.—(UP)—While a mob of several hun-
red men stormed the front doors of
ounty jail tonight shouting threats
o lynch Sugel Dabbs, negro miner, of-
ficers removed him through a rear
loor and escaped.

Atlanta, Ga.

The mob formed a few minutes
fter the negro shot and critically
wounded Kitten Vinyard, a progres-
ive miner, during a mine union quar-
el on a crowded street. Dabbs is a
member of the United Mine Workers
rival union.

N. Y. HERALD
MAR 2 5 1934

Negro Saved From Mob Storming Door of Jail

Officers Take Prisoner Away by Back, Avert Lynching

HARRISBURG, Ill., March 24 (UP)—While a mob of several hundred men stormed the front doors of the county jail tonight, shouting threats to lynch Sugel Dabbs, Negro miner, officers removed him through a rear door and escaped.

The mob formed a few minutes after the Negro shot and critically wounded Kitten Vinyard, a Progressive miner, during a mine union quarrel on a crowded street. Dabbs is a member of the United Mine Workers, a rival union.

After the shooting, friends of Vinyard seized the Negro and held him until police arrived. Vinyard was taken to a hospital. Within a few minutes more than 250 miners gathered near the scene of the shooting.

They began a march to the jail, shouting, "Lynch him!" Others joined the procession and took up the cry. Soon a mob of several hundred angry miners gathered about the frail structure.

While police sought to prevent the mob from entering the front door, others took Dabbs out through a back door and ran down an alley to an automobile, in which he was taken out of the city. Members of the mob later were permitted to search the jail.

CHICAGO, ILL.
AMERICAN
MAY 1 8 1934

Lynchi[illegible] Foiled.

KANKAKEE, Ill., May 18.—(AP)—A heavy guard was maintained today at the jail over Tom Clark, 45, colored, who was nearly lynched by a circus crowd after he had slashed three white men, two of whom may die.

4777

CHICAGO, ILL.
HERALD EXAMINER
MAY 1 8 1934

Avert Lynching of Circus Knifer

KANKAKEE, Ill., May 17.—(AP)—A heavy guard was maintained today at the jail over Tom Clark, 45, colored, who was nearly lynched last night by a circus crowd after he had slashed three white men, two of whom may die.

Lynching Prevented 1934

Troops Called To Protect Prisoner

MOB VIOLENCE FEARED AS 100 SURROUND JAIL

Glasgow Farmers Threaten Identified Assailant of Girl, 11.

SECOND NEGRO HUNTED

Father Swears Warrant, Then Collapses From Shock.

By ROBERT L. PRICE,
Herald-Post Staff Correspondent.

Glasgow, Ky., July 24—While fifty-four members of the Kentucky National Guard were assembled at the edge of tdwn today to avert possible mob violence against a Negro youth held in connection with a criminal assault on an 11-year-old girl, a crowd of 100 farmers milled about the Barren County jail, where the prisoner was confined.

Arthur Pierce, father of the girl, took out warrants charging Murrell Whitney, 19, and William Franklin, 19, with the attack. Franklin was rounded up with eight other Negro suspects, but was released after the girl was unable to identify him. He immediately vanished. Authorities hunted him today, resolved to rearrest him.

After the father signed the warrants, he collapsed from shock and was rushed to the Sampson Community Hospital for treatment.

Sheriff Roy Payne said he did not anticipate trouble, but called for the National Guard unit as a precautionary measure. Feeling ran high, however. The soldiers are members of the 123d Cavalry, with headquarters here.

Identified by Boy.

Whitney was held without bond Monday after William Pierce, 13, a brother of the girl, positively identified the Negro as the actual attacker. Franklin was charged with holding the victim while the crime was committed.

The victim of the attack, Ruby Pierce, was recovering in the hospital under care of Dr. [illegible]. The physician said [illegible] was severely cut and [illegible] and that [illegible]

Ruby [illegible] went to a spring [illegible] water, about 200 feet [illegible] her father and her [illegible] were picking blackberries [illegible] year-old brother heard muffled [illegible] and investigated. He arrived in time to witness the attack. As he called for his father, the Negroes fled.

He furnished the names of the Negroes, whom he said he had known for about two years. After Whitney's arrest, William viewed the prisoner, garbed in three changes of clothing, and positively identified him on each occasion.

"You don't need to change his clothes. I'll know him any time," the boy said. The other brother in the berry picking party was George Pierce, 9.

Armed Mob Gathers.

The girl's father carried her to the hospital, two miles away, and reported the attack. He was quoted as saying: "I'll see to it they don't get away with it."

A short while after the attack became known throughout the county between 400 and 500 farmers appeared on the public square armed with shotguns, rifles, pistols, clubs and rocks.

Nine Negroes were rounded up in a search of the neighborhood but all were released except Whitney. Franklin was one of those freed.

The Pierce family lives in a neighborhood known as the Old Brick Yards, in the northwest part of the city. There are three other children. The attack occured near the Jackson Highway about two miles north of here.

Law Observance Urged.

The State Council of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, with headquarters in Louisville, drafted telegrams to Gov. Ruby Laffoon and Sheriff Payne Tuesday, urging the preservation of law and order in connection with the Glasgow case.

Sheriff Payne was notified that "a very definite public opinion in all parts of our state against mob violence supports you in any effort you may be called upon to make to prevent another breakdown of law and order in our commonwealth."

Governor Laffoon was urged to take "such action as may become necessary for the preservation of law and order." The telegrams were signed by Mrs. G. W. Hummel, chairman of the state council; Miss Alma Schmitt, secretary; Mrs. Atwood Martin, general chairman of the Southern Association, and Miss Nannie Hite Winston, member of the southern group.

These clippings sent in by Mrs. Atwood Martin, Louisville, Ky. July, 1934

To Re-order Specify

Kentucky

4778

Kentucky

4779

Lynchings-1934
Prevented

MOB VIOLENCE AVOIDED

Commercial Appeal
8-23-34
Memphis, Tenn.

Attack Suspect Taken From Paducah to Mayfield

MAYFIELD, Ky., Aug. 22.—In fear of possible violence, Benny Young, 54, negro, was secretly brought to Mayfield last night from the Paducah jail, where he was rushed Sunday midnight after his arrest here. County Judge W. B. Sullivan said he deemed it advisable not to bring Young into open court for arraignment, so the judge and County Attorney [illegible] Roberts talked with the negro at the Graves County jail today.

Young waived an examining trial to wait action of the November grand jury. No bail was permitted and he was taken back to Paducah for safe-keeping. Young denied an attempt to attack three white girls under 10 years of age after offering them watermelon and cake and luring them into an abandoned ice cream factory in East Mayfield Sunday.

Young came here from Corinth, Miss., last spring.

Louisiana

4780

Lynchings — 1934
Prevented

Sheriff's Ruse Saves Man From a Mob in Louisiana

8-31-34

MONROE, La.—(ANP)—A sheriff's ruse Friday saved Willie Peters, 27 years old, from lynching at the hands of an irate mob of 300 white men and boys.

Peters was accused of slugging and robbing Harvey Lively, 52-year-old white salesman.

According to the story told by Lively, he picked Peters up at Greenville, Miss. and allowed him to drive his car. When they reached a deserted portion of the road, Peters is alleged to have turned on his benefactor, knocked him unconscious, taking $46, dragged him off to the side of the road, and driven off in Lively's car.

Peters was captured at Stuttgart, Ark. When it was learned that he was being returned to Farmerville, nearly 300 men gathered to take him from the deputies, but they switched him from one car to another and foiled the mob.

After Peters had been placed on the top floor of the jail here, the mob leaders openly made plans to storm the jail, but finally gave up when they decided their efforts would be futile.

Sheriff Milton Coverdale said that he "was not going to put up with such foolishness."

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
TIMES PICAYUNE

AUG 25 193

PLANS TO LYNCH ROBBER SUSPECT BLOCKED BY RUSE

Prisoner Taken to Monroe; Mob Follows; Foiled by Officers

(By The Associated Press)

Monroe, La., Aug. 24.—An official ruse sidetracked an irate crowd of 300 Union parish men in an attempted lynching of Willie Peters, 27 years old, Greenville, Miss., negro, in Farmerville, La., last night.

Peters, it is alleged, confessed to attacking and robbing Harve Lively, 52, Van Alstyn, Tex., salesman, late Monday, after Lively had given the negro a "lift."

Approximately 300 men in Union parish gathered at Farmerville Thursday night for a descent on Monroe after it had been learned that the negro, captured at Stuttgart, Ark., yesterday, was taken to Monroe.

Quick Transfer

Officials, sensing trouble while the prisoner was en route to Farmerville, made plans to throw off the lynching party. Deputy Sheriff Edwards, with his son and two other deputies, who were returning Peters from Stuttgart to Farmerville late yesterday, were met on the road by Deputy Sheriff Jack Terrel, who transferred the prisoner, Edwards and his son into his own car, while the first machine was driven down Farmerville's main street by a deputy.

The gathering men, thinking the first car contained the negro, followed it, while Deputy Edwards took a back street through Farmerville and safely brought the negro prisoner here.

Some of the crowd took to automobiles after discovering the ruse and rushed here last night. A group of approximately 50 collected. In the meantime, however, Sheriff Milton Coverdale had been informed of the purpose of the mob and had stationed deputies both inside and outside of the courthouse.

Sheriff Blocks Mob

The sheriff asserted that he "was not going to put up with such foolishness."

Members of the mob freely discussed their plans. Some of them had originally planned to commandeer a fire truck and scale the outer walls of the courthouse in an effort to seize the negro, jailed in the top floor.

The angered crowd gradually dispersed early this morning after seeing the hopelessness of capturing the negro.

The negro, Sheriff Edwards said, confessed while he was being brought here after his capture yesterday that he slugged Lively Monday night on the road between Haile and Spencer, robbed the salesman of $46 and dragged him in an unconscious condition to a spot near the highway, later escaping in Lively's automobile.

Lively regained consciousness early Tuesday morning and hailed a passing motorist. At a local hospital he was found suffering from a badly lacerated scalp and several contusions about the face.

Lively said he picked the negro up Monday morning in Greenville, Miss., and allowed him to drive his automobile. Reaching a deserted section of the road, the negro suddenly turned and slugged his benefactor.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
ITEM

AUG 24 193

Lynching Averted By Ruse

Monroe Sheriff Gets Suspect Past Mob

(By The Associated Press)

MONROE, La., Aug. 24.—An official's ruse sidetracked an irate crowd of 300 Union parish men in an attempted lynching of Willie Peters, 27, Greenville, Miss., Negro in Farmerville, La., last night.

Peters, it is alleged, confessed to the attack and robbery of Harve Lively, 52, Van Alstyn, Texas, salesman late Monday after Lively had given the Negro a "lift."

Mob of 300 Forms

Approximately 30 men in Union parish gathered at Farmerville Thursday night for a descent on Monroe after it had been learned that the Negro was captured at Stuttgart, Ark., yesterday afternoon to be taken to Monroe.

Officials, sensing trouble, made plans to throw off the lynching party. Deputy Sheriff Edwards with his son and two other deputies who were returning Peters from Stuttgart to Farmerville, were met on the road by Deputy Sheriff Jack Terrel, who transferred the prisoner, Edwards and his son into his own car, while the first machine was driven down Farmerville's main street by a deputy.

The gathering men, thinking the first car contained the Negro, followed it while Deputy Edwards took a back street through Farmerville and safely brought the Negro prisoner here.

Ruse Is Discovered

Some of the crowd took to automobiles, after discoverng the ruse and rushed here last night. A group of approximately 50 collected. In the meantime, however, Sheriff Milton Coverdale had been informed of the purpose of the mob and had stationed deputies both inside and outside of the courthouse.

The crowd gradually dispersed early this morning after seeing the hopelessness of capturing the Negro.

The Negro, Deputy Edwards said, confessed while he was being brought here after his capture yesterday that he slugged Lively Monday night on the road between Haile and Spencer, robbed the salesman of $46 and dragged him in an unconscious condition to a spot near the highway, later escaping in Lively's automobile.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
STATES

AUG 24 1934

LYNCHING BAND FOILED BY RUSE

Prisoner Transferred by Deputies on Way to Farmerville

(By The Associated Press)

Monroe, La., Aug. 24.—An official ruse side-tracked an irate crowd of 300 Union parish men in an attempted lynching of Willie Peters, 27 years old, Greenville, Miss., negro, in Farmerville, La., last night.

Peters, it is alleged, confessed to the brutal attack and robbery of Harve Lively, 52 years old, Van Alstyn, Tex., salesman, late Monday after Lively had given the negro a "lift."

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The gathering men, thinking the first car contained the negro, followed it while Deputy George M. Edwards of Union parish took a back street through Farmerville and safely brought the negro prisoner here.

Some of the crowd took to automobiles, after discovering the ruse, and rushed here last night. A group of approximately 50 collected. In the meantime, however, Sheriff Milton Coverdale had been informed of the purpose of the mob and had stationed deputies both inside and outside of the courthouse.

The sheriff asserted that he "was not going to put up with such foolishness."

Members of the mob freely discussed their plans. Some of them had originally planned to commandeer a fire truck and scale the outer walls of the courthouse in an effort to seize the negro, jailed in the top floor.

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Lively regained consciousness early Tuesday morning and hailed a passing motorist. At a local hospital he was found suffering from a badly lacerated scalp and several contusions about the face.

Lively said he picked the negro up Monday morning in Greenville, Miss., and allowed him to drive his automobile. Reaching a deserted section of the road, the negro suddenly turned and slugged his benefactor. . . .

NEW YORK SUN

AUG 27 1

PRISONER SAVED FROM LYNCHING

Texans Hide Ex-Convict Accused of Attack.

MAN FOUND WITH STOLEN CAR

Charged With Holding Up Couple on Honeymoon.

TYLER, Tex., Aug. 27 (U. P.).—

Texas

Lynch talk seethed through this town today as groups of citizens kept watch for the return of J. D. Willis, charged with kidnaping a newlywed couple and criminally assaulting the bride. He was spirited out of the back door of the county jail last night, while a mob cried for his life from the front.

Officials feared mob violence if Willis was returned here today to face a grand jury. He was held in a jail somewhere in the vicinity, but where police refused to reveal lest a mob travel there to get him.

The nineteen-year-old ex-convict was identified positively by Maxwell Herring and his eighteen-year-old bride, whose honeymoon was interrupted last night. Willis was arrested driving their car, with Mrs. Herring's engagement ring in his pocket.

Indictment Expected Today.

It was believed the grand jury would return an indictment against Willis today, whether or not he was permitted to testify before it. He may be tried later this week.

The Herrings stopped their machine at a roadside soft drink stand. A man climbed in, pressed a gun against Herring's side and forced him to drive ten miles to a woods. There Herring was made to strip to his underwear and was tied to a tree. The robber told Mrs. Herring to undress. She refused, was slapped, knocked down and assaulted while her husband strained at his bonds, helpless to intervene.

Mrs. Herring then was deprived of her clothes and bound to another tree. The bandit drove off in their car, taking the clothes and her engagement ring. Mrs. Herring saved her wedding ring by putting it in her mouth.

Bride Frees Herself.

After two hours of struggle, she freed herself and then untied Herring. They got clothes at a farmhouse and were brought here. A few hours later Willis was arrested in Palestine, Tex. He denied the Herrings' charge, saying he had received $10 from a strange man, whose name he did not know, to drive the machine to Houston.

Willis said he had served time in the Louisiana State Prison. He said he was married and the father of two children.

Soon after he was put in jail a mob began to form which rapidly grew until the street was blocked. Officers feared they might not be able to turn back an attack and spirited their prisoner away.

Herring is the son of the principal of the Tyler School.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
STATES
AUG 25 19[illegible]

A Lynching Blocked

UNION parish officials, along with those of Monroe, are entitled to take a bow for their clever frustration of an attempted lynching this week of a negro, who had brutally slugged a Texas salesman who had given him a lift on the road.

The culprit was captured in Arkansas, after having thrown his victim in a ditch and escaped with the automobile of the latter. Officers were heading him to Monroe for safekeeping when they learned that a mob of 300 Union parish citizens was to attempt to take the prisoner from them.

By a ruse the deputy sheriffs transferred their captive to another car that took a back road, while they roared through the main street of Farmerville, chased by the mob. Eventually the negro was landed in the prison at Monroe.

The mob, outwitted, went to Monroe, in the adjoining parish, and then planned to assail the prison. But Sheriff COVERDALE of Ouachia met it with such an armed force, with orders to defend the jail at all costs, that its members dissembled and made their way back to Union.

* * *

LOUISIANA, in many instances, has developed courageous officials, like those of Union and Ouachita, who have been willing to risk their lives in doing their duty and saving their communities from the stain of mob violence. It is highly to the credit of the officials of these two parishes that they determined to protect this prisoner at all hazards, so that he might be tried judicially and have meted out to him the justice he deserves.

This Union scoundrel will get his deserts. If his victim, generous enough to offer him a ride, only to be robbed and brutally attacked should die, undoubtedly he will be convicted and hanged. If the salesman doesn't die, his condemnation to a life-term in prison will be fully justified.

Lynchings - 1934
Prevented

Louisiana

4781

Troops And Officers Restore Order After Louisiana Mob Demands Slayer

SHREVEPORT, LA., April 18.—(AP)—An impressive display of armed force by local police, sheriff's deputies and four companies of national guardsmen today restored order in the vicinity of the eight-story Caddo Parish courthouse where an infuriated mob during last night attempted to lynch Fred Lockhart, confessed slayer of Mae Giffin, 16-year-old Shreveport schoolgirl.

Last remnants of the mob were dispersed before dawn with the arrival of the militia after hours of fisticuffs between local authorities and the yelling crowd, during which the angry demonstrators succeeded in pushing into the basement of the courthouse in their effort to reach the prison tiers on the seventh and eighth floors.

Scores of persons suffered minor injuries in the clash and more than a dozen arrests were made as the crowd hurled bricks and clubs and the police retaliated with tear gas bombs and threats to fire machine guns mounted on staircases.

Damage to the million-dollar courthouse building was estimated at several hundred dollars. Although two young women were prominently to the fore of the mob, exhorting men in the crowd to action, they were not among those arrested.

With the repulse of the demonstrators Shreveport officers moved quickly toward prosecuting Lockhart, 38-year-old itinerant salesman of paper butterflies, whose confession to the assault and fatal stabbing of the Giffin girl started the demonstration. The parish grand jury was called into special session for Friday morning and the district court summoned a petit jury panel for service next Monday.

Meanwhile, the four national guard companies remained encamped on the courthouse grounds tonight, and Maj. Walter B. Randall, batallion commander, announced the companies would "remain on duty indefinitely."

Sheriff T. R. Hughes said Lockhart, arrested two days ago at Tallulah, La. had made his confession after a cellmate heard him mumble in sleep:

"That poor little girl. Oh, God, why did I do it?"

Hughes quoted Lockhart as saying:

"My conscience wouldn't let me go on. I am guilty of everything that has been said about it (the killing). I want to die by the law. I don't know whatever could have made me do such a thing. I want to write my story of this as a warning not to drop to the depths I did."

The reputed confession related that Lockhart enticed the girl away from the home of her widowed mother with a promise of employment, that he took her to a suburban area and made improper advances which she resented, resulting in his stabbing and assaulting her Lockhart was quoted as saying he hiked to Tallulah after the attack.

Lockhart today denied he was the "Fred Lockhart" who escaped from a Georgia prison camp in 1931 while serving a life term for criminal assault. He said he twice before had been arrested as the Georgia fugitive, but had won release through fingerprint check. Officers here, however, said "Lockhart's" description tallied in some details with the local prisoner, particularly tattoo markings.

Two other men arrested for questioning in the Giffin case will be released, authorities said.

Confessed Slayer Admits Escaping Prison In Georgia

SHREVEPORT, LA., April 19.—(AP)—Facing Grand Jury action tomorrow for the assault and murder of 16-year-old Mae Giffin, Fred Lockhart, 38-year-old confessed slayer, today admitted he escaped from a Georgia prison camp in 1931 while serving a term of life imprisonment for criminal assault.

Sheriff T. R. Hughes said Lockhart's admission came today after he yesterday was confronted with descriptions of a "Fred Lockhart" who fled from a prison camp in Murray County, Ga. The prisoner, however, insisted he was innocent of the assault charge which sent him to the Georgia prison.

Lockhart said his real name was Napier and that he was raised in Cordele, Georgia.

The Grand Jury will convene in special session tomorrow when Dist. Atty. J. U. Galloway will seek an immediate murder indictment against the erstwhile "paper butterfly" vendor.

He hopes to bring Lockhart to trial Monday in district court here.

Four companies of national guardsmen, rushed here late Tuesday when mobs threatened to break into the Caddo Parish jail and seize the prisoner, remained on duty here today. They have been assigned to "indefinite duty" and continued to patrol the courthouse square, generously dotted with mounted machine guns.

Georgia records revealed that Fred Lockhart, alias "D. B. Napier", was convicted on an assault charge in Crisp County, and was sent to begin a life sentence in the State penitentiary at Milledgeville in 1926. Later he was transferred to a prison highway camp in Murray County. He escaped from there Aug. 19, 1931.

Louisiana Officers Hunt Murderer Of 16-Year-Old Girl At Shreveport

SHREVEPORT, LA., April 15.—(AP)—A murderer who tortured his 16-year-old victim before her death and abused the body afterward, was the object of a North Louisiana hunt today after discovery of the corpse of Mae Giffin in a thickly wooded area on the western outskirts of Shreveport near Cross Lake, the city's water supply.

Two negroes wandering in the woods found the girl's body covered with leaves and rotted wood, which the slayer apparently had attempted to set afire to destroy the evidence of his crime.

Officers had a detailed description of the man with whom the girl left home last Thursday morning. He had hired the young woman, who was to be married soon, as a maid, but the address he gave as his home proved fictitious when the girl's mother, Mrs. L. R. Peters, became alarmed a few minutes after she allowed the girl to leave with the 50-year-old man.

Police were immediately notified but they found no trace of the girl or man.

The girl's throat had been slashed four times, a deep gash inflicted in her liver and there were numerous minor cuts. apparently made by a sharp instrument, according to Dr. W. P. Butler, Caddo Parish coroner.

It became known today after finding the girl's body that kidnaping charges had been filed by officers against the man who had engaged the girl.

Mrs. Peters, the young woman's mother, said the man gave the name of "Jackson" and said he worked at a car barn, which investigations discovered did not exist.

She became uneasy, she told the police, shortly after her daughter left and began an investigation.

Mrs. Peters said that she at first refused to let her daughter leave, but the man came back and "made a good impression" on her, saying that he wished to engage Miss Griffin as a companion for his wife over the weekend. Then, she said, she finally consented for her daughter to leave with him.

The location where the body was found is a quarter of a mile from Fetheer Avenue, a prominent residential street in the western part of the city.

Mrs. Peters has two children younger than Mae.

ARMY IS CALLED TO STOP LYNCHING

Constitution

U. S. Troops Mobilized as Louisiana Guards and Police Are Overpowered.

4-18-34

SHREVEPORT, La., April 17.—(AP)—The national guard was called out at 10:15 p. m. tonight as a crowd storming the Caddo parish courthouse beyond control of officers in its efforts to "get" Fred Lockhart, confessed torture murderer of 16-year-old Mae Giffin.

Tear gas bombs failed to disperse the huge crowd.

Troops from the United States army aviation post, Barksdale field, four miles from the courthouse, were being mobilized to assist officers in protecting Lockhart.

Urged on by two young women standing on a truck, a mob of 2,000 men stormed the courthouse in an effort to seize Lockhart, who police said had confessed to the murder in a woods on the outskirts of Shreveport last Thursday.

After efforts to enter the building from the basement had failed, the mob split in half, with one half charging the front door of the first floor and the other storming the basement.

The officers were overpowered by the mob that assailed a front door armed with bricks and clubs and 200 men forced an entrance and took charge of the first floor.

The officers retreated to the second floor and firemen were called to turn the hose on the howling mob, bent on seizing the prisoner locked in the jail on the seventh floor.

Every available officer in the city was called out to control the situation. One man was arrested in the beginning of the mob action, but no charge had been placed against him.

The mob began forming in front of the courthouse shortly after the news had spread of the prisoner's confession. The mob milled about the building apparently leaderless until two young women mounted a parked automobile and one of them yelled:

"You're a bunch of dirty, yellow cowards if you don't go in and get him."

With that the mob stormed the courthouse and when a fire engine rolled up to pump water on the crowd, the mob seized the engine and held the firemen helpless.

Lockhart, 38, a wandering vendor of artificial butterflies and trinkets, confessed, Sheriff T. R. Hughes said, after he had been grilled for hours. Lockhart, the sheriff said, admitted luring the young girl from her mother's home on the pretext of employing her as a companion for his wife and stabbed her to death when she rejected his improper advances.

Extremely weary from an all day questioning by officers and reviewing by scores of persons seeking to identify the slayer, Lockhart early tonight broke down and said he was ready to make a "full confession," Sheriff Hughes announced.

The sheriff quoted Lockhart as admitting that he went to the home of Mrs. Maggie Peters, mbther of the girl, Thursday and engaged Miss Giffin on a pretense of serving as a companion to his ill wife. Her mutilated body was found on Sunday in a wooded section near Cross lake.

"She struck at me and I pulled out my knife and stabbed her in the side. She fainted and it was then I attacked her."

Lockhart paused and under questioning admitted slashing her throat after the attack and then half burying his lifeless victim under a blanket of leaves and wood, the sheriff said.

SLAYER BELIEVED GEORGIA ESCAPE

Constitution
4-19-34

Fred Lockhart Thought To Have Fled State Chain Gang in 1931.

Fred Lockhart, 38-year-old salesman, who was saved from mob violence early Thursday at Shreveport, La., after he had confessed attacking and murdering a 16-year-old schoolgirl, is believed to be the same man who once was sentenced to hang for attacking a young white woman near Cordele and who escaped from the Murray county chain gang after his death sentence had been commuted to life imprisonment by Governor Clifford Walker in 1926.

Though Lockhart denied he was the same man, Louisiana authorities said his description fitted that of the fugitive, particularly a heart and dagger tattoo on the left forearm.

Records of the prison commission show that the escape was known in Georgia as Fred Lockhardt, alias D. Bunce Napier, and that he escaped from a gang near Chatsworth in August, 1931.

Lockhardt, or Lockhart, alias Napier, was convicted on criminal assault in the Crisp superior court early in 1926 and his conviction and death sentence upheld by the supreme court.

The executive minutes of the governor's office show that Governor Walker granted him a 60-day reprieve and had him examined by alienists who reported that he was a mental defective and "did not know right from wrong." The sentence was then commuted to life imprisonment and the prisoner sent to Murray county, where he remained until his escape was reported.

CONFESSED SLAYER DENIES HE WAS ON GEORGIA GANG

SHREVEPORT, La., April 18.—(AP)—Fred Lockhart, itinerant salesman charged with slaying Miss Mae

Giffin, today denied that he was the same man as Fred Lockhardt, also known as D. B. Napier, described in Atlanta dispatches as an escape from a Georgia prison camp. Lockhardt, who escaped in 1931, was serving a life term for criminal attack.

The man held here said he had been arrested in Monroe, La., last year and "in a little Florida town" as the Georgia fugitive, but was released, he asserted, after fingerprint check.

Authorities said his description fitted that of the Georgia fugitive in some respects however, particularly a heart and dagger tattoo on his left forearm.

An impressive display of armed force by local police, deputy sheriffs and four companies of national guardsmen today restored order in the vicinity of the eight-story Caddo parish courthouse where an infuriated mob during last night attempted to lynch Lockhart.

Last remnants of the mob were dispersed before dawn with the arrival of the militia after hours of fisticuffs between local authorities and the yelling crowd, during which the angry demonstrators succeeded in pushing into the basement of the courthouse in their effort to reach the prison tiers on the seventh and eighth floors.

Scores of persons suffered minor injuries in the clash and more than a dozen arrests were made.

[illegible] 4-19

SPEEDY TRIAL FOR LOCKHART MADE CERTAIN

Telegraph

Danger of Mob Violence Passing as Authorities Rush Court Procedure

4-19-34

TROOPS STILL ON GUARD

Macon, Ga.

Scores of Persons Suffer Hurts in Courthouse Brawl in in Shreveport

SHREVEPORT, La., April 18 (AP) Willingness to let the law take its course in the case of Fred Lockhart, 38, alleged confessed attacker and slayer of 16-year-old Mae Griffin, tonight superseded mob violence as authorities moved swiftly toward an early trial for the accused.

Dispersal of a furious crowd that vainly besieged the Caddo parish jail seeking to deal with Lockhart in its own way, by national guardsmen and police and sheriff's officers was followed by announcement by District Attorney J. U. Galloway of arrangements for bringing Lockhart to trial April 23.

As mob spirit died, Galloway outlined plans for speeding prosecution of Lockhart, itinerant vendor of artificial butterflies, after District Judge Robert Roberts, at request of the district attorney and Sheriff T. R. Hughes, called a grand jury session for Friday to consider the alleged slayer's case.

"We hope to have Lockhart indicted and arraigned Friday morning and the case set for trial beginning Monday," the prosecutor said.

Troops Still on Duty

Selection of a petit jury, especially chosen for the trial, was also ordered by Judge Roberts.

Meanwhile, two suspects arrested besides Lockhart in connection with the stabbing to death and assaulting of the Griffin girl were released in view of a confession Sheriff Hughes and District Attorney Galloway said Lockhart made assuming all blame for the crime.

Although no recurrence of last night's mob violence was anticipated, Maj. Walter Randall, commanding a battalion of four militia companies said guardsmen would remain on duty "indefinitely" protecting the parish courthouse and jail.

"We took charge at the governor's order and will retire the same way," was the way one member of the militia expressed it.

Courthouse Scene of Battle

Telegraph 4-19-34 Macon Ga.

Some guardsmen patrolled the courthouse square with fixed bayonets and others comprised machine gun detachments stationed at doorways.

Last remnants of the mob were dispersed before dawn with the arrival of the militia after hours of fisticuffs between local authorities and the yelling crowd, during which the angry demonstrators succeeded in pushing into the basement of the courthouse in their effort to reach the prison tiers on the seventh and eighth floors.

Scores of persons suffered minor injuries in the clash and more than a dozen arrests were made as the crowd hurled bricks and clubs and the police retaliated with tear gas bombs and threats to fire machine guns mounted on staircases.

Lockhart Admits Being One of Mob That Hung Frank

Telegraph 4-20-34

SHREVEPORT, La., April 19 (AP)—Nineteen years ago a youth named D. B. (Bunce) Napier was behind the wheel of an automobile speeding dangerously over rutted Georgia roads and in that car was Leo Frank, murderer or Mary Fagan, en route to his death at the hands of a silent but determined band of men.

Macon Ga.

Tuesday night the same man, now known as Fred Lockhart, sat in a cell in the Caddo parish jail, and heard the cries of a mob which battled furiously but futilely with officers in an effort to get possesion of the confessed slayer of 16-year-old Mae Giffin.

Tonight the man, who had changed his name to Fred Lockhart after his escape August 19, 1931, from a Georgia chain gang to which he had been sentenced for criminally assaulting a Crisp county, Ga., girl, was behind the bars of the Caddo parish jail reading and rereading at intervals the first verse of the seventh chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew.

It reads:

"Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again."

Took Part in Lynching

Lockhart, whose confessed murder of 16-year-old Mae Giffin here a week ago today created a wave of indignation which resulted in a mob storming the Caddo parish court house in an effort to get him, today told a reporter of the part he took in the lynching of Leo Frank, whose crime, trial and death were a national sensation nearly two decades ago.

He admitted that he knew just how the murderer Frank felt when a mob battered down the doors of the Georgia State prison at Milledgeville and seized its quarry. And as he read the verse time and again he could not help but recall what happened — the mob of which he was a member, traveling in an automobile, sped 110 miles to Marieta where, near Mary's grave, the men hanged Leo Frank.

Lockhart said he was convicted in Crisp county, Ga., on an assault charge and sentenced to life imprisonment. He was sent to the penitentiary at Milledgevill , Ga., in 1926, and after serving time there, was transferred to a prison highway camp in Murray county, Ga., from which he escaped on August 19, 1931.

'Butterfly Man' Indicted; Trial Is Set For Monday

~~Telegraph~~

Slayer of Young Girl Pleads Guilty When Arraigned But It Is Rejected

Telegraph.

SHREVEPORT, La., April 20 (AP) D. B. Napier, alias Fred Lockhart, 38-year-old eccentric "butterfly man" who linked himself with three major crimes in statements to the police here this week quailed in a militia-guarded courtroom today when he was arraigned on a charge of murdering 16-year-old Mae Giffin and was ordered to face trial on Monday morning.

Macon Ga.

Pale and haggard of face, Lockhart—as he prefers to call himself, although he said his right name was Napier—needed the support of Sheriff T. R. Hughes and two deputies as he made the short trip from seventh-floor prison cell to the main floor courtoom of the courthouse. Trembling, he heard a clerk read two indictments returned by a specially convened grand jury earlier in the day.

4-21-34.

One charged him with criminal assault and the other with the murder of the Giffin girl, to whose attack and slaying he confessed last Tuesday.

"Guilty," said Lockhart hoarsely as the clerk finished reading.

Plea of Guilty Rejected

His quick plea, however, drew an objection from District Attorney J. U. Galloway. Presiding Judge Robert Roberts, exercising his prerogative under Louisiana law, then rejected the plea, ordering a plea of not guilty entered on the record and directing the prisoner to face trial on the murder count next Monday.

Both the assault and murder charges are punishable by death but under state statute, the state could not have demanded the death penalty on a plea of guilty.

Guardsmen were sprinkled plentifully through the courtroom and courthouse corridors encamped on the courthouse grounds, guarding against any renewal of the mob threat which resulted in 5,000 persons storming the building in an attempt to take the prisoner last Tuesday night.

The demonstration occurred after Lockhart, itinerant vendor of paper butterflies, confessed to luring the Giffin girl away from her home with a promise of employment and to attacking and stabbing her to death in a suburb.

"I Know How Frank Felt"

Subsequently, he admitted being a fugitive from a Georgia chain gang, asserting he escaped in 1931 while serving a life term for criminal assault. Last night, in a surprise statement, Lockhart said he was a leader in the mob which carried out the lynching in the celebrated Leo Frank case in Georgia in 1915.

Frank, convicted of killing 14-year-old Mary Phagan under circumstances similar to the Giffin case, was seized by a mob at Milledgeville, Ga., driven 110 miles to Marietta, Ga., and hanged. Lockhart said he drove the car for the lynchers.

Recalling the mob which clamored for his own life three days ago, Lockhart said:

"I know now how Frank felt when he was taken from the Georgia prison and hanged."

D. B. NAPIER

Lynchings-1934
Prevented

Louisiana

4782

Lockhart Sentenced To Hang for Murder

Constitution 4-24-34
Atlanta, Ga.

SHREVEPORT, La., April 23.—(AP)—D. B. Napier, alias Fred Lockhart, 38, paper butterfly peddler, must hang for the murder of 16-year-old Mae Giffin.

A jury returned a verdict of "guilty as charged," after deliberating five minutes in Caddo parish court today. The verdict was returned at 1:18 o'clock.

Attorneys for Lockhart waived the 24-hour delay, and Lockhart was immediately sentenced to hang by Judge Robert Roberts. The death penalty was mandatory under the jury's verdict.

The verdict was heard without demonstration, and Lockhart, protected by national guardsmen, showed no sign of emotion.

A jury was completed 55 minutes after Lockhart went on trial this morning.

Nation 5-2-34

A PARTICULARLY BRUTAL MURDER took place lately in the vicinity of Shreveport, Louisiana. The victim was a sixteen-year-old girl, the murderer a peddler more than twenty years her senior who has since freely confessed to the crime. Police officers in Shreveport, with the aid of the militia, succeeded in preventing the abduction and lynching of the prisoner by a mob of several thousand persons which fought for hours with the officers of the law. All credit must be paid to the officers who refused to give up their prisoners and who successfully defied the mob. Yet one or two things must be remembered in connection with the case. One is that the murderer was a white man. If he had been a Negro his chances of protection would not have been so good. Another is that the threat of a federal anti-lynching law, which hangs over the several States, is keeping them on their good behavior, a fact that was admitted by a judge at Hernando, Mississippi, in the recent trial of three assailants of a young white girl. The anti-lynching bill, now pending in the Senate, provides for federal prosecution of State officials who fail to protect prisoners and to punish lynchers. It also provides for punishment of lynchers themselves and would impose a penalty of from $2,000 to $10,000 on any county in which a lynching took place. Eminent lawyers have pronounced the bill constitutional; a strong point in its favor is that federal action in lynching cases is freer from local influences. That a federal law would be effective is indicated by the fact that in 1923, a year after the Dyer anti-lynching bill threatened to become a law, there were fewer than half as many lynchings as in 1922.

Nashville. Tenn. Banner
April 20, 1934

Killer Confesses Part in Lynching Of Frank in 1915

Shreveport, La., April 20—(AP)—Fred Lockhart, saved three days ago from death at the hands of an infuriated mob, identified himself today as a participant in the sensational Leo Frank lynching in Georgia in 1915.

Lockhart, held for attacking and killing sixteen-year-old Mae Giffin, turned from reading the Bible to tell that he drove the automobile which carried Frank from the Georgia Prison at Milledgeville 110 miles to be hanged at Marietta, Ga.

"I know now how Frank felt when he was taken from the Georgia Prison and hanged," said Lockhart.

Leo Frank, a young man and a college graduate, whose home was at Brooklyn, N. Y., was lynched August 17, 1915, after his death sentence for the slaying of Mary Phagan had been commuted to life imprisonment.

Lockhart said he was a member of the mob which battered its way into the Milledgeville Prison to get Frank. The mob took Frank to Marietta in order to hang him near Mary Phagan's grave.

As Lockhart told his story, four companies of national guardsmen patrolled the parish courthouse grounds. The troops were called out Tuesday night while an angry crowd was storming the courthouse, battling unsuccessfully to reach Lockhart in the rooftop jail.

Lockhart, who said his real name is D. B. (Bunce) Napier, admitted having escaped from a Georgia prison camp in 1931 while serving life imprisonment for criminal assault.

He turned back to his Bible and read from the Gospel according to St. Matthew:

"Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again."

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
April 23, 1934

Lyncher And Lynching

The self-confessed slayer of a 16-year-old Louisiana girl, who had to be protected from an infuriated mob at Shreveport the other day, now declares that he was himself a member of the Georgia mob that lynched Leo Frank back in 1915. Perhaps his story is not true, but if it is, his disclosure throws an interesting light on the sort of people who compose mobs.

We are sometimes told that those who "take the law into their own hands" are respectable citizens. Here is a case in which it appears that the driver of the death car in one of the most notorious lynchings in the history of the nation was later to serve time in a Georgia chain-gang for criminal assault and finally to come to the crime which he has now confessed in Louisiana. Some student of psychiatry might say that these later manifestations of criminal tendency represent a sort of divine retribution for the original crime of participating in the Frank lynching. Others would say that only those who are criminally minded in the first instance can stoop so low as to indulge themselves in the sadistic orgies of mob violence.

We do not undertake to pass on these views. Perhaps the lynching makes the criminal, perhaps the criminal makes the lynching. But in either case it is a sorry picture, which suggests the hollowness of all the talk about respectable citizens in lynching parties. And not the sorriest reflection about it all is the reluctance of the better elements of any community to deal with those whose capacity for lynching stamps them inevitably as persons with whom society must deal in some effective way.—Baltimore Sun.

The Sun isn't talking about things that have happened in Alabama. It is driving at things that have happened nearer home—on the Eastern Shore. But its suggestion touching the makeup of lynching mobs and the complacency of public opinion goes for the problem as a whole. Respectable people may find themselves in lynching bees, but they have dropped for the time being the qualities which make them supporters of a civilized order in other circumstances. And the overshadowing fact remains that the savagery of a mob is criminal, strips some lynchers of restraints which have kept them from being enemies of society, and in general represents a moral letdown immeasurably sinister in its consequences.

It is in the building up of a strong, alert and positive public opinion against lynching that the key to the problem lies. That means a consistent educational process to make clear it is the community, not the victim, that is the real sufferer from mob violence. That means officials attuned to public abhorrence of lynching. That means a massing of the community's moral resources to prevent lynchings, instead of the same massing after the event. If we had had these things, the Wagner-Costigan bill to give lynching a federal status would not be so far advanced toward enactment as it seems to be. The dearth of local responsibility has brought into being a record of inaction and smugness which is a potent weapon in the hands of proponents of the measure, despite all the sound objections which are being urged against this invasion of state sovereignty.

HOUSTON, TEX.
POST

APR 24 1934

A Salutary Lesson

LOUISIANA recently has witnessed a victory for constituted authority that should have a salutary effect in that State, and in all other sections of the country where mob action is resorted to now and then.

A white man who had been accused of attacking and slaying a young woman was sentenced by a jury to hang. The trial was held only a few days after the accused had been apprehended and imprisoned. Justice was prompt and effective.

Today this criminal stands in the shadow of the gallows, with very little chance that he will be able to cheat the law. The quick disposition of the case by the courts emphasizes the fact that the mob which a few nights ago attempted to storm the jail at Shreveport, where the prisoner in question was confined, was acting unnecessarily. The orderly processes of justice were in motion when the mob formed. Those processes continued to function and will not end until the criminal is pronounced dead at the end of a rope.

Those Shreveport officers of the law who stood off the mob and prevented a lynching are to be commended for their fidelity to duty. They protected a prisoner who had been committed to their care. What is of more importance, they protected the State from the assault of a group of citizens temporarily turned anarchists. Members of mobs seem not to realize that when they lynch an individual they also lynch the law.

Because officers in the Shreveport jail performed their duties and upheld the majesty of the law when the howling mob attacked, the law has taken its course in orderly manner in the case of the man the would-be lynchers sought.

This is better.

Lynchings-1934
Prevented

Maryland

4783

NEGRO SUSPECT HELD IN MARYLAND MURDER

BALTIMORE, Jan. 7.—(AP)—Sam Jones, 55-year-old negro, was brought to Baltimore early today after a secret arrest and hearing in Somerset county yesterday on charges of murdering Mrs. Margaret Brumbley, 58-year-old farm woman, on New Year's Eve.

The negro had been under suspicion and had been questioned several times since the body of the woman was discovered by her husband, Fred Brumbley, in the bedroom of their home at Marion Station.

Somerset county officials said there was no indication of mob violence, but felt it best to have the negro brought to Baltimore for safe keeping. A lynching occurred in Somerset county in October.

Charleston, S. C., News & Courier
January 8, 1934

NEGRO HELD IN MURDER

Taken to Baltimore from Scene of Recent Lynching

Baltimore. Jan. 7.—(AP): Sam Jones, fifty-five-year-old negro, was brought to Baltimore early today after a secret arrest and hearing in Somerset county yesterday on charges of murdering Mrs. Margaret Brumbley, fifty-eight-year-old farm woman, on New Year's Eve.

The negro had been under suspicion and had been questioned several times since the body of the woman was discovered by her husband. Fred Brumbley, in the bed room of their home at Marion station.

Somerset county officials said there was no indication of mob violence, but felt it best to have the negro brought to Baltimore for safekeeping. A lynching occurred in Somerset county in October.

Negro Taken To Jail At Baltimore

Advertiser

BALTIMORE, Jan. 7.—(AP)—Sam Jones, 55-year-old negro, was brought to Baltimore early today after a secret arrest and hearing in Somerset County yesterday on charges of murdering Mrs. Margaret Brumbley, 58-year-old farm woman, on New Year's Eve.

1-8-34

The negro had been under suspicion and had been questioned several times since the body of the woman was discovered by her husband, Fred Brumbley, in the bedroom of their home at Marion Station.

Somerset County officials said there was no indication of mob violence, but felt it best to have the negro brought to Baltimore for safe keeping. A lynching occurred in Somerset County in October.

BRONX HOME NEWS
JAN 8 1934

Negro Murder Suspect Rushed to Baltimore

Fearing that mob action might be aroused, Sam Jones, 55, colored suspect in the brutal killing of Mrs. Margaret Brumbley, 58, on a farm in Somserset County, Md., was secretly removed to Baltimore. The lynching of another colored suspect in October prompted the move.

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
JAN 8 1934

Secretly Seize Colored Man in Woman's Death

Baltimore, Jan. 7 (AP).—Sam Jones, 55, colored, was brought to Baltimore early today after a secret arrest and hearing in Somerset County yesterday on charges of murdering Mrs. Margaret Brumbley, 58, a farm woman, on New Year's eve.

Jones had been under suspicion and had been questioned several times since the body of the woman was discovered by her husband, Fred Brumbley, in the bedroom of their home at Marion Station.

Somerset County officials said there was no indication of mob violence, but felt it best to have the prisoner brought to Baltimore for safe keeping. A lynching occurred in Somerset County in October.

Jones was taken into custody with the utmost secrecy at Marion Station and was taken before Magistrate Fred Holland for the preliminary hearing. Immediately afterward, Sheriff Luther Daugherty, Deputy Sheriff Robert Maddox and Detective Serg. Walter Martin, of the Baltimore police, left with their prisoner.

It was not until they were passing through Delaware en route to Baltimore that any word was allowed to leak out that an arrest had been made. Sheriff Daugherty telephoned from Smyrna that the arrest had been made.

Negro Held In Baltimore For Wounding Officer

BALTIMORE, April 30.—(AP)—Harry Flamming, negro, who had been sought by hundreds of Somerset County citizens last night after he stabbed and seriously wounded a Crisfield police officer, was brought to Baltimore this afternoon and placed in the city jail.

Three State Highway patrolmen accompanied the negro, who is charged with wounding Harry Daugherty, the patrolman, in resisting arrest.

The trip to Baltimore apparently was uneventful.

Negro Sought By Lynch Mob Saved By Cop

Sheriff Spirits 'Away Eastern Shore Man To Baltimore

Planet 5-5-34

CRISFIELD, Md., May.—Harry Fleming missed death by lynching early last Monday morning when he was arrested here by Sheriff Luther Daugherty, charged with seriously wounding Night Policeman Harry Daugherty, kinsman of the Sheriff when he came to arrest him.

Fleming's life was saved when the sheriff foiled an angry mob of five hundred enraged men who had scoured the vicinity of the attack all night looking for the accused man. He was spirited out of the county by sixteen state police soon after he was arrested at the home of Ida Spencer, near Westover Crossroads, several miles from the spot where the mob believed it had him surrounded in a swamp

Daugherty was found lying unconscious on the floor of Fleming's home on Saturday night. Fleming is alleged to have struck the night officer in the head with a chisel. After an all-night search the mob failed to find any trace of the accused man. It had dwndled down to a mere 100 men early Monday morning, when the town fire siren shrieked out to summon more fiends to the hunt. It was at that time that the empty swamp several miles from here was surrounded.

At first it was thought that the officer had been shot in the temple, but at the hospital where his condition is still serious it was learned that the attack had been made with some sharp instrument which had cut through the skull.

Sheriff Daugherty said he was "determined not to have another lynching." George Armwood was lynched sixteen miles from her last October

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BALTIMORE, MD.
MORNING SUN
MAY 1 1934

THE SAFE PROCEDURE

Sheriff Luther Daugherty, of Somerset county, acted wisely in speeding on his way to Baltimore a Negro charged with seriously if not fatally, stabbing a Crisfield policeman. When the mob spirit rises it is much better to avoid risk by removing the object of wrath. Such a gathering does not always mean that its members are bent on lynching their man. But the danger of an attempt to do so is present and there is no reason to take chances.

These outbreaks and theats of lynching are public calamities and the courts of the Eastern Shore should exert every resource and authority to prevent them and demonstrate that the law can move speedily in bringing lawbreakers to justice. If this were done, there would not remain a shadow of excuse in the most stupid mind for violence. It would appear in its true light—an uprising of the dregs of society bent on sating a lust for blood.

BALTIMORE, MD.
MORNING SUN
SEP 7 1934

SO FAR, SO GOOD

Somerset county authorities seem to have acted with both vigor and dispatch in dealing with the Negro arrested yesterday at Princess Anne for an alleged attack on a white woman. They quickly and quietly arrested the suspect, carried him promptly before a magistrate for arraignment, and then whisked him away to Baltimore for safe keeping. Such preventive methods cannot be too highly commended. The commendation is the more in order because of the unfortunate record which Somerset authorities made in the case of George Armwood, who was lynched at Princess Anne a year ago.

The stigma of the Armwood case is not, however, to be completely wiped out by these preliminary precautions. The important test will come later on. It is to be remembered that Armwood was also brought to Baltimore for safe keeping. But he was not allowed to remain in Baltimore, and his return to the Somerset jail, at a time when feeling ran high in that county, was the prelude to one of the most disgraceful mass murders in the history of the State. It will be incumbent on the county authorities to avoid a repetition of that mistake if they wish to show that they have learned the lesson of the Armwood case.

It is, of course, possible that there will be less feeling about the present case than there was when Armwood was accused, but if there is feeling, precaution and more precaution ought to be the watchwords of the county officers. No premature return of the prisoner to the county ought to be sanctioned, and no opportunity ought to be left for any mob action when the case actually comes up in court. So far, the record in the present instance is fine. May it be kept so.

4783

WASHINGTON, D. C.
TIMES

DEC 6 1934

40 Police to Guard Court At Jones Trial Tomorrow

OFFICIALS FEAR ATTEMPT AT LYNCHING

3 Judges Named to Hear Case; Possible Death Sentence Faces Accused

Two score policemen and special deputies of Sheriff Eddington Bell will surround the Rockville (Md.) courthouse tomorrow to forestall any possible attempt to lynch Alexander Jones, 25, colored ex-convict, when he goes on trial charged with assaulting a 16-year-old Chevy Chase, Md. girl two months ago.

The guard will be the largest ever assigned to a trial in Montgomery county.

3 Judges to Hear Case

Defense counsel appointed by the court have asked that the trial be heard by three judges, without a jury, and the following jurists have been named: Chief Judge Hammond Urner and Judges Arthur D. Willard

Jones faces a possible death sentence if convicted.

Jones and another ex-convict James Poindexter, also colored, are accused of having beaten unconscious the youthful escort of the girl and then after severely beating the girl criminally assaulting her. Poindexter is still at large and a nation-wide search for him is now under way.

Jones was arrested at Belair, Md., and returned to Rockville. Reports that a mob intended to lynch him were received by police and he was rushed to the Baltimore city jail for safe keeping He was brought back to Rockville secretly for arraignment and then returned immediately to Baltimore. He pleaded not guilty

Lynchings - 1934
Prevented

Mississippi.

4873

GUARDS FOR NEGROES

Men Accused In Criminal Assault To Have Protection

2-12-34

JACKSON, Miss.—(AP)—Gov. Conner Saturday announced that in accordance with a request from the sheriff and circuit judge of DeSoto County, he had ordered a detachment of national guardsmen to escort three Negroes, charged with criminally assaulting a high school girl in the county, to Hernando for trial next week.

Birmingham,

"There will be no trouble," the governor said, referring to reports that feeling was high in the North Mississippi county.

It cost Mississippi $8,000 to take precaution against the possibility of mob violence and give a fair trial to three negroes who were sentenced to death upon their own testimony. It was worth the price. The cost is insignificant compared to the value of the good name of the state. There seems to be misconception in the minds of some as to the purpose of the troops at Hernando. They were not there to defend the negroes. They were there to defend the law.

Prepare to Care For Guardsmen

HERNANDO, Miss., Feb. 11.—Preparations to feed and house the 400 guardsmen were being made by officers here tonight, who indicated that several thousand persons are expected to attend the court session.

2-12-34

Several shipments of bread for the guardsmen have been sent from Memphis and extra supplies of coffee have been ordered.

Maj. T. B. Birdsong of Clarksdale, who will be in charge of the troops, said yesterday that if developments necessitated such action, wire entanglements would be thrown up around the courthouse for additional protection.

Brooklyn, N. Y. Eagle

FEB 13 1934

Guard Uniforms Fool Lynch Mob

Hernando, Miss., Feb. 13 (AP)—Three Negroes, who must die on the gallows for attacking a white girl are safe in cells today because of the uniforms of the Mississippi National Guard.

Threatening crowds surged about yesterday following the conviction of the Negroes and fear was felt for their safety. To thwart the crowd the Negroes were disguised as Guardsmen. They donned the uniforms of the troops even to the steel helmets. Thus they marched to the train with the 152 Guardsmen, whose bristling bayonets afforded still further protection

The Negroes were taken to jail at Jackson. They are to hang March 26.

New York Times

FEB 13 1934

3 NEGROES DOOMED; TROOPS CHECK MOB

Mississippi Crowd Attempts to Enter Court House as Trio Are Sentenced.

ADMITTED ATTACKING GIRL

Her Father Appeals Against Lynching—Agitator Jailed, Gas Bombs Repel Rescue.

HERNANDO, Miss., Feb. 12 (AP).—As an angry crowd of men sought in vain to enter the court house, three Negroes who confessed to criminal assaults on a 17-year-old schoolgirl were sentenced late today to die on the gallows here March 16.

Adjt. Gen. Thomas J. Grayson and a detachment of national guardsmen started the prisoners back to Jackson for safekeeping on a train which departed at 6:51 P. M. Several groups of men, muttering threats against the Negroes, were still in evidence, but they gave the officers no trouble.

During the day at least two attempts were made to break through the barbed-wire entanglements erected about the court house by National Guardsmen, and one elderly man cut his hand against the fence.

"Was it an accident?" he was asked.

"Hell, no," he replied; "we want those Negroes."

Three hundred and fifty heavily armed militiamen stood on guard duty all day.

General Grayson said the most serious threat against the prisoners was halted when one agitator was taken to the city jail not far from the court house. Part of the crowd threatened the city jail in an attempt to free the man, but tear-gas bombs held by the soldiers deterred them.

The conviction of the Negroes, Ernest McGehee, 23; Johnny Jones, 23, and Isaac Howard, 25, came swiftly. A detachment of 150 guardsmen arrived with them early today in a steel-barred train in which the trip was made from Jackson, where they had been held for safekeeping.

The prisoners were taken to a vault at the court house. Shortly before noon the grand jury returned indictments against them. They pleaded guilty.

The jury at the trial today was out seven minutes and returned with a verdict, "Guilty, as charged."

The Negroes had confessed boarding an automobile in which the girl and an uncle, G. A. Collins of Myrtle, Miss., and a Memphis aunt were riding the night of Dec. 27. The aunt and uncle were robbed. The attacks on the girl occurred in Mississippi just across the State line from Memphis.

General Grayson said that feeling had quieted somewhat late today.

Earlier in the afternoon, however, General Grayson said the crowd was "in an ugly mood." He said the father of the girl mounted a platform and pleaded with the gathering to "let justice take its course." He said he was "heartbroken" over the incident, but would leave vengeance to the courts.

The appeals helped somewhat, General Grayson said, but it was necessary to drive one crowd of 150 or more across the street when they threatened to break through the barbed-wire entanglements.

N. Y. SUN

FEB 13 1934

RUSE SAVES THREE FROM LYNCH MOB

Negroes Sentenced to Death Moved to Jail Cells.

HERNANDO, Miss., Feb. 13 (A. P.).—Three Negroes who must die on the gallows for attacking a white girl are safe in cells today because of the uniforms of the Mississippi National Guard.

Threatening crowds surged about yesterday following the conviction of the Negroes, and fear was felt for their safety. To thwart the crowd the Negroes were disguised as guardsmen. They donned the uniforms of the troops even to the steel helmets. Thus they marched to the train with the 152 guardsmen whose bristling bayonets afforded still further protection.

The Negroes were taken to jail at Jackson. They are to hang March 26.

All three, Johnny Jones, 23 years old; Isaac Howard, 25, and Ernest McGhee, 23, have confessed that they had held up the automobile carrying a seventeen-year-old Holly Springs schoolgirl, her aunt of Memphis and G. A. Collins of Myrtle, uncle of the schoolgirl, and robbed the uncle and aunt and attacked the schoolgirl while the uncle and aunt were forced to stand by at the point of a pistol. The crime occurred in December.

The Negroes, praying for deliverance from a mob, were brought from the Jackson jail to Hernando yesterday on a special train under guard of National Guardsmen. They detrained at dawn and the Negroes were locked in a record room in the courthouse and barred wire entanglements were thrown around the building and soldiers with fixed bayonets stood off the crowd of men who mumbled for vengeance by lynching. Two attempts were made during the day by two different white men to lead a mob into the courthouse.

The father of the girl mounted a platform and urged the crowd to let the law take its course.

National Guard Called For Assault Case Trial

Advertiser

GREENWOOD, MISS., Feb 7.—(AP)—Dist. Atty. James Whitten, of Charleston, Miss., today announced here that three negroes arrested for attacking a young white girl recently will be indicted and tried next week in Hernando, Miss., under national guard protection.

The trio captured in Memphis after the alleged attack forced the girl and her aunt and uncle to drive their car over the State line into Mississippi where the crime was committed, officers charge.

The negroes, Isaac Howard, Johnny Jones, and Ernest McGhee, said to have confessed the assault, were taken by plane earlier this week from Memphis to Jackson, Miss.

They will be removed to Hernando, where the Grand Jury will meet Monday, Whitten said. National guard troops will be asked when the trial is held, probably later next week.

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
February 15, 1934

A Mississippi Case

MISSISSIPPI, where so many lynchings have occurred, has just sentenced three men to death. The legal manner in which Mississippi has proceeded in this case is worthy of study. The crime was committed December 27. The three suspects were arrested a few days later and were kept in Memphis for a short time before being transferred to Jackson, Miss., to await trial. They were given a sufficiently heavy escort on the trip to Jackson, to prevent any effort to lynch them.

The three defendants pleaded guilty, but the State of Mississippi presented all of its evidence. The jury remained out six minutes and returned a verdict of guilty. The men were sentenced to hang on March 16.

Governor Conner insisted that all legal details be scrupulously followed in this case.

BALTIMORE, MD.
EVE. SUN
FEB 13 1934

In Mississippi

A long, complicated and profound statistical analysis published in the *American Mercury* a year or so ago showed Mississippi to be the worst State in the union.

Nevertheless, Mississippi has its qualities. Three Negroes, convicted of criminal assault on a white girl, were sought by a lynching mob; but the Mississippi National Guard was called out in time, and resolutely defended the jail. One alleged leader of the mob is in jail, and the Negroes are in the State penitentiary, where they will doubtless be executed by due process of law.

Some States that ranked above Mississippi in the statistical analysis may well look at this record with envy and embarrassment. We name no names.

4873

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

FEB 14 1934

(NEWS photo by Froeber: © 1934 by News Syndicate Co., Inc.)

"LYNCH THEM."—Behind fence reinforced with barbed wire, steel helmeted National Guardsmen at Hernando, Miss., patrol courthouse as mob raises lynch cry against three colored youths sentenced to die for attacking white girl.

Story p. 22; other pics. p. 23.

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400 Troops On Special Train Carry 3 Negroes To Hernando For Trial

Armed Guardsmen, Equipped With Tear Gas, Leave Jackson

Commercial Appeal

EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN DESOTO EARLY TODAY

2-12-34

Largest Mobilization of Troops in Mississippi Since the World War

BY KENNETH TO[illegible]ER

Commercial Appeal Staff Correspondent

JACKSON, Miss., Feb. 11.—Heavily armed and equipped with tear gas bombs and gas masks, 400 steel helmeted national guardsmen left here tonight on a special train for Hernando with three Memphis negroes, who this week will face a DeSoto County jury on a charge of attacking a 16-year-old school girl. It was the largest mobilization of troops in Mississippi since the World War.

The hour of the arrival was kept secret by Adjt. Gen. Thomas J. Grayson and Maj. T. B. Birdsong, Clarksdale, for fear of possible mob violence. Troops are expected to "drink coffee at the Hernando depot at 9:30 o'clock," according to General Grayson.

Major Birdsong in Charge

Major Birdsong, chief of police of Clarksdale, is in charge of the troop movement.

The train will be met by several companies, which were ordered direct to Hernando from their northern state bases. Leaving Jackson aboard the special train were guardsmen from nearby points.

Companies expected to be used in protecting the negroes include:

Company E, of Cleveland; Company F, of Clarksdale; Companies B and C, Jackson; medical detachment from Jackson, and headquarters and service company from Jackson; Company H, machine gun from Corinth; Company I, Laurel; 122nd Motor Transport Company, Senatobia; Moorhead and West Point companies of 106th Engineers; Yazoo City service and communication company; Company D, machine gun, from Canton, and Vicksburg headquarters company.

Companies from Jackson and nearby points were mobilized at the Jackson armory tonight.

Barbed Wire Fence

A barbed wire fence is expected to be thrown around the Hernando courthouse by the troops. They will remain there until afte, the trial and return the negroes to Jackson until their execution date.

The negroes, who have confessed the crime, are: Ernest McGhee, 23; Johnny Jones, 23, and Isaac Howard, 25, all of Memphis.

G. A. Collins, merchant and father of the girl involved, last night issued a formal plea that there should be no mob violence during the trial. The mobilization order was issued by Governor Conner to protect the negroes.

Approximately 30 picked men under command of Capt. V. S. Adkins and Lieut. Elgin Lester left early tonight for Hernando to form the nucleus of shock troops for the trial should violence break out.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
STATES

FEB 13 1934

Upholding the Law

MISSISSIPPI so often has stood aside as lynchers have substituted themselves as dispensers of justice that it is gratifying to note the precautions taken by Governor CONNER to support the courts and the authorities in the orderly trial of three negroes at Hernando for a crime that usually causes a community to lose its head and seek primitive justice.

These culprits were charged with a brutal attack upon a young white girl. There was no doubt of their guilt. The evidence against them was conclusive. They were anxious to plead guilty to the awful crime.

Temporarily they were kept in the state prison at Jackson. Little doubt seemed to exist that if they were taken to Hernando for trial with no more protection than the sheriff and his deputies could assure, a mob would take the law into its own hands.

To prevent that and to save the good name of Mississippi, the governor mobilized a large body of state troops and sent them to the scene of the trial. They protected the courthouse with barbed wire. They set up machine guns. They perfected a cordon around the seat of justice and they were given orders to uphold the supremacy of the judiciary at all hazards.

As a result of what the governor did there was no violence at Hernando, a fair trial was had of the accused, whose guilt was absolutely without question, the verdict was prompt and they will be hanged in March.

That conclusion serves the ends of justice better than if mob law had been permitted to prevail, and the reputation of Mississippi, much tarnished by the number of lynchings it has had, is considerably bettered in respect of law enforcement.

MEMPHIS, TENN.
COMMERCIAL APPEAL

FEB 14 1934

An Effective Answer

Mississippi effectively answers the charge of those sponsoring a federal antilynching bill that states are incapable of preventing mob violence; that it should be classified as a federal offense, and counties in which it occurs should be penalized.

The crime was committed Dec. 27. Three suspects were arrested a few days later. They confessed. They were kept in the Shelby County jail for a time and transferred to Jackson to await trial. They were taken to the place of trial under an escort sufficient to have prevented even a well-organized effort at summary justice.

The suspects pleaded guilty, but even so the state submitted its case in full. The jury remained out six minutes. On March 16, the three will hang. Mississippi law requires that 30 days elapse between date of sentence and execution.

There has been speed enough to satisfy even the most vengeful. Not the slightest question of the guilt of the convicted exists. Until the day of execution they will be held at Jackson. Necessary precautions will be taken then to see that the court's sentence is carried out in an orderly manner.

Mississippi has set an example to states where mob violence threatens. Governor Conner showed that he was ready to use every resource at his command to permit the unhampered operation of the legal system.

Lynchings - 1934
Prevented 6

Mississippi.

4802

3 Negroes Sentenced To Hang March 16 At Hernando For Attack

Commercial Appeal
2-13-34 Memphis, Tenn.

Troops Return to Jackson After Three-Hour Trial

ONE MAN JAILED AS HE BECOMES UNRULY

400 Guardsmen on Scene Keep Crowd From Courthouse During Case

Commercial Appeal

BY LEROY POPE
Commercial Appeal Staff Correspondent

HERNANDO, Miss., Feb. 12.—Indicted, tried and sentenced to hang here today—all within a space of five hours—three Memphis negroes were en route back to Jackson tonight in a special train guarded by troops to await their execution here March 16 for the brutal triple assault Dec. 27 on a 17-year-old Holly Springs high school girl.

While 400 troops stood guard about the courthouse and twice repulsed attempts of aroused citizens to gain custody of the negroes, the case was ended quickly in the small courtroom of the De Soto County courthouse and Judge John J. Kuykendall sentenced the trio at 4:30 o'clock this afternoon. A short time later, the negroes were escorted to the train for their trip to Jackson, from where they were brought early this morning.

Jury Out Six Minutes

The jury was out six minutes. The trial was a stilted legal affair in a beleaguered courthouse that dragged through three hours of careful maneuvering by attorneys to keep error out of the record. The negroes, Isaac Howard, Ernest McGhee and Johnny Jones, pleaded guilty, but Judge Kuykendall, at the request of District Attorney Jamie Whitten of Charleston, ordered the state to present its case to the jury anyway.

The main trouble about that appeared likely to be getting a jury. Of the first 12 men in the box, eight at once said that they had formed a definite opinion about the negroes' guilt. The court and attorneys finally succeeded getting enough jurors who said that they could discard their previously formed opinions and give a fair trial. The defense attorneys, appointed by Judge Kuykendall, did not put on a single witness and declined to argue the case.

Not one of the negroes had a word to say when Judge Kuykendall called them one by one to the bar, and raising his eyes to the ceiling rather than face them, sentenced them to die for their crime against the girl.

Although the threatening crowd had thinned to a few stragglers within 20 minutes after the verdict, the guards remained on duty for a short time.

But while inside the courtroom all was perfunctory, things outside at the noon hour threatened to develop into a very lively affair.

Become Unruly

The crowd which had billowed around the barbed wire barricade at the eastern gate of the courthouse all morning in a half-hearted way, suddenly became unruly and started to charge the gate. Maj. T. B. Birdsong, chief of police at Clarksdale, and in charge of the troops' operations under Adjutant General T. J. Grayson, had to present a phalanx of 100 troopers with bayonets bristling, and their faces covered with gas masks, while picked men lofted their tear gas pistols, before the crowd subsided.

T. F. Barron of Horn Lake, whose inflammatory oratory had much to do with the crowd's sudden show of fire, was arrested by the military and taken to the pill-box county jail south of the square.

At the same time another individual, whose name officers did not learn, cut his hand badly on the wire in the jam. Angered by the arrest of Barron and the sight of the unidentified man's bloody hand, the crowd milled in an ugly mood toward the jail and in a few minutes Adjutant General Grayson at the courthouse received a call from the harassed jailer, G. T. Thomas, who said the crowd was demanding Barron's immediate release.

"I was going to let them take the jail rather than reduce the force at the courthouse," General Grayson said later.

The tense situation was relieved by the arrival of Mrs. Barron at the courthouse. Jailer Thomas was called hurriedly and the determined Mrs. Barron satisfied him that Mr. Barron would forget his ardor for vengeance if released to her. The Barrons left for Horn Lake, and soon the area in front of the jail was cleared, except for a gawky country boy who continued to fume to some bystanders while the guardsmen smiled.

Still Angry

But when attorneys and officers returned to the courthouse after lunch, the crowd was still angry, and several De Soto County officers had to listen to shouts from voters who said they would remember all th' at election time.

Hernando awoke this morning—that is the folk who didn't stay up all night to see the soldiers arrive—to find the courthouse a fortress with barbed wire entanglements all the way around the fence, machine guns scowling from the parapets of the new wings just built by the CWA, and guardsmen in trench helmets and bayonets, patroling the courtyard and the square, and making searching inquiries of every motorist who stopped in the square.

In one of the new wings just off the chancery court clerk's office were the negroes, guarded by a full platoon of tired soldiers armed with a Browning automatic rifle and Springfields and Colts. In the yard machine gunners worked to mount more guns, and the motor transport train from Senatobia unloaded pup tents, field kitchen and supplies of bombs. A signal detachment rigged up a field telephone system from the prisoners' room to the courtroom and the eastern gate, the only one opened all day.

The crowd was large by the time Judge Kuykendall and District Attorney Whitten arrived from their home in Charleston, but only attorneys, newspaper men and a few of the favored ones were admitted to the courtroom as a grand jury under the foremanship of D. B. Bridgeforth was empaneled.

Memphians Testify

The grand jury got busy when Inspector Will T. Griffin and Detective Sergts. A. O. Clark, Bill Raney and Terrell Pilkinton of Memphis, who effected the capture of the negroes, arrived.

Clyde Collins, Holly Springs mechanic, father of the victim of the crime that began at the corner of East Parkway and Lamar in Memphis, when the three negroes jumped on the running board of the car in which the girl was riding with her aunt, Mrs. W. L. Jackson, 584 Alexander, Memphis, and her uncle, G. A. Collins, Myrtle, was in the courtroom when the clerk began calling the list of grand jurors. Mrs. Jackson and G. A. Collins arrived shortly before the Memphis officers.

The indictment was voted by 11:30 o'clock, and then there was a long wait while the prosecuting attorneys, Mr. Whitten, Gerald Chatham, De Soto County attorney; Fred M. Belk, district attorney at Holly Springs, and close friend of the Collins family, and Greek P. Rice, Jr., of Clarksdale, argued with Judge Kuykendall and General Grayson over whether to go to trial at once or wait until tomorrow.

Mr. Whitten wanted to wait, but the judge said that the situation called for speed, and the general pointed out that maintaining 400 soldiers at Hernando is costing plenty of the state's money—$8,000 for two days was a conservative estimate, the general said.

The counsel of the judge prevailed and trial began at 12 o'clock and recessed as soon as the jury was chosen. The jurors were: R. K. Edwards, Willbaum Sexton, R. B. Poole, Quince Hobbs, J. G. Boggan, H. F. Vaughn, J. R. Stewart, J. C. Sartin, W. F. Gaines, W. J. Lee, L. C. Laughter and L. D. Faulkner.

Lawyers Appointed

Judge Kuykendall appointed Paul Bowdre, John W. Barbee and N. E. Wilroy to defend the negroes, and G. A. Collins was first witness. He told simply and briefly how he and the girl met Mrs. Jackson at Grand Central Station at 7 o'clock the night of the crime and started to drive to her home. They missed Walker Avenue over which they intended to go and at Lamar and the Parkway were halted by a traffic light, and the negroes climbed aboard the car, and ordered Collins to "turn right and drive on!"

The harrowing story of the robbery, of being put out of the car and guarded while the negroes pushed the machine to a filling station and bought gasoline; of reentering the car and being driven to the lonely field off Chulahoma Road just across the Mississippi line followed.

And then Collins told how the three negroes assaulted the girl in the frozen field, at pistol point. Collins told how the negroes made Mrs. Jackson write them two checks for $100 and $25 on the First National Bank and then one of the negroes said: "We're gonna' kill you all. Git up the road and don't turn around," and as they trudged up the road, the negroes drove off in the car, and the Collinses made their way to the Findlay Holmes home on Chulahoma Road.

Mr. Belk was the next witness and introduced the confessions of Howard, Jones and McGhee and described the manner in which they were obtained, emphasizing that to his positive knowledge he knew the prisoners had not been coerced and had been fully advised of their constitutional rights and that the confessions almost certainly would hang them. Gerald Chatham was the last witness, testifying that the defendants had admitted their guilt to him in the Shelby County jail.

Both state and defense rested after consultations about technicalities and Mr. Whitten alone addressed the jury, merely reading stereotyped instructions about the crime of rape and capital punishment and adding "if there is a single mitigating circumstance in the record of this case, it has not been called to my attention."

The jury went out at 4:05 o'clock and was back at 4:11 o'clock.

Judge Kuykendall spoke rapidly and in pained agitation as he sentenced them one by one.

"It is customary to add 'May God have mercy upon your soul,'" he said quickly after the sentences, "and you have a month now to prepare to meet your end."

He then cautioned the courtroom audience to use its influence to disperse "those who may not agree with you" when they passed through the barbed wire outside the courthouse.

"The national guards were not brought here by Sheriff Birmingham and myself because we had any lack of confidence in the citizenship of DeSoto County," he said. "But in this case a lynching would have been against the interests not only of DeSoto County and Mississippi but of the whole south.

"There are now pending in Congress several anti-lynching bills. The effect of these bills would be to destroy one of the south's cherished possessions—the supremacy of the white race, and I believe a lynching in this case would have inevitably resulted in passage of one of these laws by Congress."

Judge Kuykendall also commented on the exceptional speed with which justice was satisfied in the case, complimenting the Memphis police.

"There have been insinuations that the Memphis police did something to force confessions from these negroes, but I want to say that the defendants told me themselves this morning that nothing like that occurred."

He also announced that it had been his painful duty to pass the death sentence on six men in the past 12 months—four of them at Hernando.

A poignant note began the day in the courtroom when the Rev. W. N. Dodds, pastor of the Methodist Church, in his prayer reminded that "vengeance is mine and I will repay," says the Lord.

At dusk, all excitement in Hernando seemed over, and the only casualties of the day were the unknown valiant's cut hand, and a bruised eye sustained by Corpora Hardy of Company B of Jackson who was struck by a rock dislodged from the roof of one of the wings when the machine guns were placed.

However, it was the most thrilling day for Hernando since the Civil War. Curiously enough, large crowds of negroes hung around the edges of the square. There was supposed to be a convention of the grand lodge of one of the larger negro fraternal societies in Hernando tomorrow, but reporters were informed that "that meeting just called itself off."

The guards arrived in Hernando at 5:25 o'clock in the morning on a special train from Jackson in command of General Grayson. The train stopped a half-mile north of the village and the prisoners were taken to the courthouse in a truck. A machine gun company from Corinth, besides the Senatobia transport train, had already arrived overland. Besides General Grayson and Major Birdsong, ranking officers, were: Maj. Al Callicott of Senatobia, Maj. R. G. Saxon of Meadville and Maj. J. W. Patton of Jackson.

Father Pleads With Crowd

HERNANDO, Miss., Feb. 12.—Clyde Collins, Holly Springs farmer and father of the negroes' victim, this afternoon pleaded with the crowd to refrain from mob violence.

Mounting a platform, he asked the milling throng to "let justice take its course." He said he was "heartbroken" over the attack, but that he would leave vengeance to the courts.

Death of Sheriff Caused By Restraining Mob May Result In Victim's Father Executing Doomed Attackers

3-2-34

HERNANDO, Miss., (ANP) — Isaac Howard, Johnny Jones, and Ernest McGhee, hurriedly convicted and sentenced to death for an assault on a white 16-year-old Holly Springs schoolgirl, are scheduled to ascend the scaffold on March 16, and Clyde Collins, father of the girl, may spring the trap.

Information that the father would be so "honored," came last week when Governor Conner appointed Roscoe Lauderdale, sheriff of De Soto County, to succeed Sheriff W. M. Cunningham, who died suddenly of heart strain brought on while holding back a mob of 2,500 who were attempting to take the prisoners from the courthouse during the recent trial.

Lauderdale was chief deputy under the deceased sheriff, and will hold office until an election to fill the unexpired term, is called by the board of supervisors.

According to the laws of the state, the deputizing of an executioner by the sheriff is legal and by virtue of several conferences between Collins and the acting sheriff, the latter may win the coveted appointment.

According to officials, the three defendants "admitted" their guilt to the charges of kidnaping the girl and her uncle and aunt, December 27, in Memphis and forcing them to drive into DeSoto County where the act was said to have taken place.

Because of the state unrest among the natives the attempt to have the widow or the daughter of the dead sheriff named as his successor was considered unwise by Governor Connor, who frowned upon the idea of a woman in that office.

When they are transferred to Hernando from Jackson, the Negroes will be guarded by the National Guard troops who were called out during the trial.

MARSHFIELD, WIS.
NEWS HERALD

FEB 14 1934

IT MAY RUN ITS COURSE

Like dueling, the crime of lynching may run its course in the United States. There is evidence accumulating that southern states are making a pronounced effort to protect from mob lynching, Negroes who are held for trial.

The other day, 350 National Guardsmen were called out to protect three Negroes held on charge of attacking a 17-year-old school girl. The accused men were locked in a record vault in the courthouse at Hernando, Miss. That is vastly different protection than Negroes usually have been given in the past by officials in southern states.

Evidently, lynching may become outlawed by public opinion to the extent that it will cease entirely. Dueling in this country was common 100 years ago, almost as common as lynching is today, yet men do not think now of settling their differences in that manner.

There is reason to hope that lynching will cease entirely. It is a relic of barbarism which, like dueling, is clothed with sufficient sentiment to make it appear honorable.

COLUMBUS MURDER SUSPECT IS HIDDEN

Commercial Appeal

Recovered Pistol May Be Connecting Link Against Negro

3-6-34

COLUMBUS, Miss., March 5.—James Keating, negro, arrested as a suspect in the murder of Fred Hayslett, 45, filling station operator, today was removed from Lowndes County to another jail.

At the same time officers revealed that a .38-caliber pistol, reported stolen recently from the service station where Hayslett was employed, had been found under the front porch of Keating's house.

Police Captain John Morton, who with three other officers arrested Keating, said that a witness to the shooting, Herschel Atkins, said that Keating answered the description of the slayer.

Hayslett was dead when taken to a hospital with four bullets in his abdomen.

The pistol found under Keating's house, officers said, contained five cartridges, four of which had been fired. The fifth was retained for comparison with bullets found in the body of the victim.

Officers said it was possible that Keating had stolen the pistol from the service station as he was recently employed there.

Funeral services for Hayslett will be held Tuesday afternoon.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX.
EXPRESS

FEB 25 1934

Upholding the Law

Following the indictment of seven men, in Kentucky, for participating in a lynching comes the story of troops in Mississippi guarding three condemned men whom a mob wished to take and kill. The prisoners were disguised as guardsmen, and marched from the jail to the train in the midst of a force of 150 guardsmen with fixed bayonets. In this instance the crime for which the men were jailed was the one for which Southern lynching bees are traditionally supposed to be held. The anger of the mob is not at all difficult to understand. But those men were in the hands of the law. They are to be hanged next month. The mob simply wished to anticipate the processes of legal justice—to "beat the law to it." Execution of those criminals by the State will, no doubt, have much more "deterrent value" than would a lynching.—Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

DES MOINES, IA.
REGISTER

FEB 15 1934

WHERE THERE'S A WILL THERE'S A WAY.

National guardsmen sent to protect three Negro youths at Hernando, Miss., had to dress the prisoners in guard uniforms and march them to the train to deceive a threatening mob.

This is not a very pleasant picture, but at least mob savagery was frustrated and the condemned Negroes will die next month by a method society has legally approved.

Considering the disregard for decency with which some public officials have condoned mob murder in the past year, the Mississippi episode is a remarkable step forward.

JACKSON, MISS.
NEWS

AUG 26 1934

NEGROES FAIL IN LYNCHING THREAT HERE

Deputy Derrick Rescues Negro From Mob After Attempted Attack

A mob of approximately 100 angry negroes was frustrated here Saturday night in an attempt to lynch a member of their own race charged with attempting to assault a 60-year-old negro woman.

Deputy Sheriff A. B. Derrick said he took the negro, who gave his name as Willie Gallon, away from the mob as preparations were being made to hang him to a tree.

Gallon, according to the officer, had been captured about nightfall by the negro posse after a hunt of several hours in the vicinity of the Tripp's Crossing road, northwest of Jackson.

Informed of the mob's intention, Deputy Derrick went to the scene and persuaded the negroes to turn Gallon over to him. He said they did so under vigorous protests, mingled with pleas to permit them to hang the alleged would-be attacker.

The officer said that the negro attempted to attack the elderly negro woman at her home about 1 o'clock Saturday afternoon after threatening her life and that of another negro woman who was in the house at the time.

Gallon was quoted by Deputy Derrick as saying that he lived at Newellton, La.

Lynchings-1934
Prevented

Mississippi.

4772

NEW YORK AMERICAN

APR 4 1934

Negroes Guarded Against Lynching

MERIDIAN, Miss., April 3 (AP)—A small army of officers today accompanied three Negroes held in jail here for the slaying of Raymond Stuart, a farmer, to DeKalb after officers had received hints of threatened violence.

Sheriff Stephens, who had brought the Negroes here for safe keeping, disclosed the local jail had been turned into a miniature armed fort last night following reports an attempt would be made to seize the prisoners. Deputies armed with machine guns, shotguns and tear gas bombs stood guard throughout the night.

NASHVILLE, TENN.
EVE. TENNESSEAN

FEB 15 1934

Mississippi Foils a Mob.

The state of Mississippi has every reason to be proud that justice triumphed over mob violence in the recent trial of three ~~negroes for~~ an unspeakable crime.

Transported from Jackson to Hernando, the defendants pleaded guilty, and were quickly sentenced to death. They are now back in the Jackson jail, awaiting their execution within a month.

The story might have been told otherwise but for the determination of all in authority to prevent a lynching and thus protect the state's good name. In anticipation of trouble, the negroes were transferred to the scene of their trial by state guardsmen, who surrounded the courthouse with barbed wire entanglements and set machine guns at strategic points.

When the citizens sought to pierce this line, they were confronted with the sharp points of four hundred bayonets, and the threat of tear gas. Impressed with the fact that they were facing no half-hearted resistance, the would-be mobsters changed their minds and gave up their project.

Credit must be given the father of the negroes' victim for the part he played in allaying the mass hysteria. This Holly Springs farmer mounted a platform and pleaded with the mob to let justice take its course. He said he was heartbroken over the attack, but that he was willing to leave justice to the courts.

Such counsel had its effect, and today Mississippi can be credited with having set a bright example for all other Southern states. It has also been revealed that mobs can be controlled where there is a firm desire to do so, and where proper precautions have been taken.

Jackson, Miss. Ledger
July 31, 1934

Mob Violence Is Feared As Sheriff Plots Way To Transfer Jackson Negro

Like a mouse in a trap, Sandy Williams, 24-year-old Hinds county negro and confessed insulter of a white woman of the Forest Hill community, was safely behind the bars of the county jail last night; but outside, the "big, bad cat" smacked his lips in eager anticipation of the negro's removal to the county farm near Raymond.

How to transfer the negro from the mob-proof county prison to the insecurely guarded county farm without inviting the already threatened vengenace of a group of irate, indignant, and heavily armed Hinds county citizens was a question that was bothering Sheriff G. Warren Ferguson yesterday afternoon.

The punishment meted out by statute to the negro for his brazen series of telephone calls to the home of the white housewife, where he had at one time been employed as yard and house boy, was a fine of $75 and a sentence to the county farm of five months.

The sentence, imposed by Justice of the Peace E. T. Calhoun yesterday afternoon within four hours after the negro had been trapped by means of a traced telephone call, was about all Mississippi statutes would allow. The charge, as contained in an affidavit filed by County Attorney W. R. Newman was "disturbing a family," but the charge against the negro in the minds of an enraged white citizenry of the Forest Hill community is a far more henious one, and under the South's unwritten racial law, bears a far more serious punishment.

Last night, the negro was safe for the time being. Sheriff Ferguson asserted that no attempt would be made to move him to the county farm "right at this time."

Outside the courthouse, standing about the corridors, on the lawn, were omnious sentinels—grim-faced and determined citizens—who awaited the release of the "mouse from the trap."

Down Forest Hill and Raymond way, where deputies would be forced to travel in conveying the negro to the county penal farm, little groups of men closely watched and guarded the roadside. Shotguns and pistols were in evidence.

There was no mistaking their motives. Sheriff Ferguson, charged with the safe conduct of his prisoner to the county farm, did not minimize the danger.

Earlier in the day, after the word quickly spread that the negro had been captured, a sinister group of men trailed sheriff's and police officers, and the negro was spirited to the safety of the county jail following his arrest only "in the nick of time," according to one officer.

The group of armed civilians, (they could hardly be called a mob), apparently was biding its time to strike.

Officers said there was no doubt of the negro's guilt. The negro himself admited calling the woman and making an insulting proposal. In addition to his confession to police and sheriff's officers following his arrest on South Gallatin street by Deputies Sheriff Bob Stone, John Wright and Police Officer J. P. Shipp, the negro entered a plea of guilty when arraigned in Judge Calhoun's court.

Following the trial, and after he had been brought back to the safety of the county jail, the negro was asked by a deputy sheriff:

"Sandy, what in the world ever possessed you to do this thing?"

"I guess it was just de devil got in me," he replied.

LYNCHING IS AVERTED

Negro Sentenced To Five Months For Insult To Woman

Commercial Appeal
7-31-34

JACKSON, Miss., July 30—A lynching was narrowly averted this afternoon by Hinds County and city police following the arrest of Sandy Williams, negro, on a charge of making improper proposals to a woman of the Forest Hill sector over a telephone.

Apprehending the negro in Jackson, the officers gave him a speedy trial before Justice of the Peace Calhoun, and then rushed him to the Hinds County jail. Williams, who was first believed to have been named George Jackson, was fined $75 and given a five months' sentence on a charge of disturbing a family.

He had just completed a third call, when telephone officials notified police. His arrest followed.

Memphis, Tenn.

OFFICERS TRICK MOB SEEKING NEGRO THUG

Commercial Appeal

Prisoner Accused of Beating, Robbing Salesman

8-25-34

MONROE, La., Aug. 24.—(AP)—An official's ruse side-tracked an irate crowd of 300 Union Parish men in an attempted lynching of Willie Peters, 27, Greenville, Miss., negro, in Farmerville, last night.

Peters, it is alleged, confessed to the attack and robbery of Harve Lively, 52, Van Alstyn, Texas, salesman, late Monday after Lively had given the negro a "lift."

Approximately 300 men in Union Parish gathered at Farmerville Thursday afternoon to be taken to Monroe.

Memphis, Tenn.

Officials, sensing trouble, made plans to throw off the lynching party. Deputy Sheriff Edwards, with his son and two other deputies, who were returning Peters from Stuttgart to Farmerville, were met on the road by Deputy Sheriff Jack Terrell, who transferred the prisoner, Edwards and his son into his own car, while the first machine was driven down Farmerville's main street by a deputy.

The gathering men, thinking the first car contained the negro, followed it while Deputy Edwards took a back street through Farmerville and safely brought the negro prisoner here.

The negro, Deputy Edwards said, confessed while he was being brought here after his capture yesterday that he slugged Lively Monday night on the road between Haile and Spencer, robbed the salesman of $46 and dragged him in an unconscious condition to a spot near the highway, later escaping in Lively's automobile.

Louisiana

ALLEGED MURDERERS REMOVED TO JACKSON

Commercial Appeal

Mendenhall Aroused After

Farmers' Body Found

12-28-34

JACKSON, Miss., Dec. 27.—(AP)—Two men charged with the murder of George Roberts, Simpson County farmer, were held in the county jail here today for safekeeping following reports that an attempt would be made to take them from jail at Mendenhall.

The prisoners, Joe Warren and Charles Nichols, were brought here last night by Sheriff D. W. Duckworth. Warren's wife, also held in connection with the slaying, remained in jail at Mendenhall.

The bullet-torn body of Roberts was found in a creek near there last week. Sheriff Duckworth said Warren confessed shooting Roberts when the latter threatened to stab him.

Judge Lane announced at Mendenhall that a special term of court would be convened Jan. 21 for the trial.

Lynchings — 1934
Prevented.

Missouri.

4784

MOB THREAT NOT FEARED

Butler County Officers Not Disturbed Over Reports

10-18-34

POPLAR BLUFF, Mo., Oct. 17.—Butler County officers were not disturbed tonight over reports that a mob, which organized at Sikeston last night and went to New Madrid where it demanded that officers turn over three negro slayers, might try to take the negroes from the jail here.

The three confessed negro slayers, James Hankton, Lucien Givens and Clarence Hunter, were brought here Sunday night by Sheriff Sam Harris of New Madrid County for safe keeping. They admitted, officers say, killing Dave Martin, just across the county line south of Sikeston, Oct. 7.

The mob was met at the jail door by Keto Malcolm, Sikeston newspaper man, who acted in the place of Harris, away at the time. He permitted three members of the mob to inspect the jail and when the mob learned the prisoners were not there, it dispersed.

Missouri Whites Run Amuck And Threaten To Lynch Negroes

Age
10-27-34
New York

SIKESTON, Mo.—The death of Dave Martin, white war veteran, on Monday for which three Negroes were held under suspicion was the signal for wholesale terrorizing of that town's Negro population by a white mob.

Police were kept busy rescuing Negroes who were being beaten by the crowd and were forced to remove the three prisoners first to New Madrid and later to Poplar Bluff for safekeeping.

Martin's body was found in a field on October 7, and three Negroes, Lucian Givens, James Herrington and Clarence Hunter were said by the police to have admitted beating him with an automobile crank, driving an auto over his body and robbing him of $24.

On Saturday night crowds formed in Sikeston and made threats to run the 300 Negroes there out of town; on Monday night a lawless band of 50 white men roamed the streets attacking and beating the colored people wherever found and some 200 others unsuccessfully stormed the jail at New Madrid in an attempt to lynch the three suspects.

Four other men have been arrested and released to appear in court. Police are guarding against further demonstrations against the Negro population.

LYNCH BENT MOB ATTACKS MISSOURIANS

Call
10-2[illegible]-34

Citizens of Sikeston in Fear of Lives; Three Severely Beaten

Kansas City Mo.

SIKESTON, Mo.—The 300 Negro citizens of this small southeastern Missouri town 66 miles from St. Louis are living in fear of mob violence following a series of anti-Negro demonstrtaions which were climaxed Monday night by the severe beating of three men.

Except for the intervention of police the seizure of the men by a mob of 50 white men probably would have resulted in a lynching. The men who were attacked and beaten were Lucian Givens, James Herrinton and Clarence Hunter who police say have confessed to killing Dave Martin, white War veteran, with an automobile crank on October 7 after robbing him of $24. The extent of their injuries at the hands of the mob was not disclosed.

Shortly after their arrest and confession a mob of 200 whites on October 16 stormed the jail at New Madrid where the three prisoners were lodged in an atempt to seize them. Officers, however, anticipating such action, already had transferred the prisoners to Poplar Bluff.

Monday night's outbreak followed a week-end of trouble during which time rumors had been spread that the whole Negro population would be "run out of town."

In some sections of town many Negroes were reported attacked both in groups and individually. It was necessary to place special guards in the Negro district to quell the mob. Four members of the mob were arrested but were immediately released without bond.

One all-night white restaurant was closed by police order following complaints by the manager that white men were making verbal threats to attack the Negro district.

Negro servants in white homes as well as residents of the Negro district are fearful of their safety. Many cooks, chauffeurs and maids failed to report to work Tuesday fearful lest they suffer bodily harm on the streets.

MURDER OF CHILD CONFESSED BY NEGRO

Held in Pulaski County Jail After Arrest at Hot Springs

10-23-34

Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK, Oct. 22.—(AP)—A 19-year-old negro, J. C. Cook, was held in the Pulaski County jail here today for safekeeping after his arrest at Hot Springs yesterday for the slaying last Aug. 2 of Bernice Hoffman, 8, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Hoffman of Beaumont, Texas.

Deupty Sheriff Marion Anderson of Garland County, who brought the negro here, said he had confessed to the slaying after an all night grilling by Hot Springs officers.

It was not determined here whether charges had been filed against Cook, but at Hot Springs, officers said further developments would await the return of Chief of Detectives Herbert Akers, who is now in Kansas City with the pistol used in the murder. Akers took the gun to ballistic experts.

The child was instantly killed as she slept in a tourist camp cottage at Hot Springs. Her father said he was awakened by the flashing of a light in his face, and saw a young negro standing in the doorway. He said the negro told him to hand over a pair of trousers on a chair, and when the negro failed to find money in the pockets, fired at Hoffman. The bullet struck the sleeping child.

Solitary For Negro

POPLAR BLUFF, Mo., Oct. 24.—Clarence Hunter, one of three held in jail here for the murder on Oct. 7 of Dave Martin, near Sikeston, robbed another prisoner in the county jail today and was placed in solitary confinement on a diet of bread and water. James Harrington and Lucian Given, the two negroes held for the Martin murder, aided him. They were brought to jail here just before a mob stormed the New Madrid jail Tuesday night.

Lynchings-1934
Prevented

North Carolina

PEACE OFFICERS SNATCH YOUTH FROM IRATE MOB

Held In Unknown Jail For Murder In North Carolina

By R. D. ARMSTRONG

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.—Nash County officers moved swiftly here Sunday to prevent a possible lynching when they snatched Booker T. Watson, 16 year old Nash County farm boy, from the hands of an angry mob, and placed him in an unknown jail for the murder of Hinsey T. Williams, 45, white Wilson County farmer.

According to a story of Woodrow Williams, 10 year old son of the farmer, Waston was ordered from the yard of Williams because of an altercation which had taken place between Watson and young Williams earlier in the day. Watson left the yard, and secured a shot gun from his brother-in-law a few miles away, and returned to the Williams' estate and fired on the elder Williams as he attempted to feed his hogs.

After firing the first load, which took effect in Williams head, Watson calmly reloaded the weapon and fired twice after, one shot entering the back, and the last the arm.

Trailed By Hounds

Watson was arrested by Deputy Sheriff J. H. Griffin and Walter Cooke, chief of the Nashville police department, after they had followed a trail picked up by blood hounds shortly after the shooting. The gun was found in a church near the scene of the shooting.

The officers were closely followed by a mob of some 500 men. Cooke was knocked from his feet in the scuffle, when the mob attempted to take the prisoner from him.

The calling of the mob of 500 enraged farmers and townsmen a posse as several white newspaper men did in reporting the story, it was pointed out appeared on the surface to be an attempt to cover the true facts in the case.

A posse it was explained is deputized by law and would never have conducted itself as this group which attempted to overpower Chief of police Cooke and other officers who made the arrest.

Sheriff Johnson of Nash County, described the shooting as one of the most brutal in the annals of Nash County. A representative of the Journal and Guide visited the scene of the shooting shortly after the reports reached this city and secured first hand information of the shooting.

NORTH CAROLINA NEGRO IS RESCUED FROM MOB

RALEIGH, N. C., July 16.—(AP)—A 17-year-old negro, snatched from a heavily armed posse of 300 persons near Nashville yesterday after he had shot and killed Hinsey T. Williams, a farmer of Bailey, was held in an unannounced eastern North Carolina jail today.

7-17-34

The negro, Booker Watson, was captured four hours after he shot the farmer and was rushed to Nashville as a mob gathered. From Nashville he was taken to a destination which officers refused to divulge.

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Atlanta, Ga.

QUICK TRANSFER FOILS VIOLENCE

Indianapolis Recorder

8-11-34

Indianapolis, Indiana

BLOOMINGTON, Ind., Aug. 8.—(Special)—Quick action on the part of local officers is being credited with averting a serious threat of mob violence following the slaying of Charles Languell, year old prominent Gosport farmer.

Lon Hartfield, Jr., 15, his father, Lon Hartfield, Sr., Frank Hill, and Frank Demming, white were arrested and held in jail here last Saturday when officers apprehended the four and charged them with the slaying of Languell, who was Wayne county assessor, and Democratic nominee for township trustee.

Reports of the threatened attack on the jail by a mob said to be forming to capture the prisoners, led authorities to transfer them speedily to safety in the jail of another county, the name of which has not been revealed.

Prosecutor Leroy Baker said young Hartfield has confessed to Owen county authorities in Spencer last night that he shot Languell after the farmer had fired at him. Before he died, the farmer told witnesses that he found the men in his watermelon patch yesterday morning, and after they failed to heed to his command to leave, he fired over their heads.

Young Hartfield, when found, had suffered buckshot wounds in the right arm and legs. When first arrested the suspects were taken to the Owen county jail, but speeded away when officers learned of the threatened attack on the jail.

Charges of murder will be placed against all four men authorities say.

NEGRO IS JAILED HERE FOR SAFETY

Macon Telegraph

Greensboro Sheriff Arrives With Rock Throwing Suspect; Victim Near Death

8-21-34

Macon, Ga.

To thwart possible mob action by a threatening body of Greensboro citizens, Sheriff W. A. Reynolds of Green county last night lodged Frank Kimbrough, Green county Negro arrested in connection with seriously injuring a white woman, safely in the Bibb county jail.

Meanwhile Mrs. O. P. Whitley of Madison, is expected to die in an Athens hospital of a crushed skull suffered when the Negro allegedly threw a stone into an automobile in which she was riding near Greensboro, about 9 p.m. Sunday, Sheriff Reynolds reported here.

Kimbrough was arrested about 3 p.m. yesterday as he slept in his home in Union Point, about seven miles from Greensboro. He denies having thrown the three-pound stone that struck Mrs. Whitley and Mrs. Otis L. Bonner of Athens, who also was injured.

Shortly after it had became known in Greensboro that an arrest had been made, about 200 residents milled about the small jail apparently threatening mob action in the event Mrs. Whitley dies.

Negroes Taken From Jail

Informed by Athens physicians that there is no hope for Mrs. Whitley's recovery, Sheriff Reynolds smuggled the Negro from the Greensboro jail about 7 p.m. last night and arrived here about 9 p.m. He also brought Bernard Collins, Negro held on a misdemeanor charge, as he feared both Negroes might be taken if the jail were entered. They were the only Negro prisoners in the jail.

Kimbrough, a tall brown-skinned Negro about 25 years old, is held on a charge of assault with intent to murder.

Mr. and Mrs. Otis Bonner and baby of Athens, were in the front seat of the car as they rode along about 50 miles per hour four and one-half miles from Greensboro Sunday night. Mr. and Mrs. Whitley, parents of Mrs. Bonner, were on the rear seat.

Without warning, a Negro standing on the right side of the road hurled a stone at the car which was going toward Greensboro. The stone entered the right front window, struck Mrs. Bonner a glancing blow on the scalp and landed squarely against Mrs. Whitley's head, crushing her against a window.

Victims Under Treatment

Telegraph

Mr. Bonner did not stop his car, but continued into Greensboro, where the women were given emergency treatment. Both were then taken by ambulance to Athens where they are under treatment in the general hospital.

Macon

8-21-34

Soon after Kimbrough's arrest Sheriff Reynolds notified Mr. Bonner and Mr. Whitley and both men positively identified the Negro.

Macon, Ga.

Mr. Bonner was not sure of the Negro's identity until he had him open his mouth. He explained to Sheriff Reynolds that when the Negro hurled the stone he opened his mouth as though he were laughing.

Residents along the highway between Union Point and Greensboro informed Sheriff Reynolds that they had seen the Negro in the vicinity of the rock-throwing several times lately. He had been standing on the edge of the highway each time, they said as though he were waiting for someone to pass.

Fresh tracks near the scene were found by Sheriff Reynolds who followed them to Union Point where he made Kimbrough's arrest.

New York World Telegram

NOV 1 1934

MOB HUNTS NEGRO, ASSAULT SUSPECT

North Carolinians Threaten Lynching as Woman Tells of Attack by "Tall Negro."

By the United Press.

THOMASVILLE, N. C., Nov. 1.—A Negro suspect arrested here today after a white woman had been criminally attacked, was rushed out of the county by officers when a mob of several hundred people formed.

Feeling here was intense. Threats to lynch the Negro were heard from many members of the mob "when we find him." Most of the would-be lynchers carried guns; some had ~~Sholtz. He said "some of the ring-~~

By the Associated Press.

TALAHASSEE, Fla., Nov. 1.—Grand Jury investigation of the lynching of Claude Neal, Negro, near Marianna last week was ordered today by Governor Dave Sholtz. He said "some of the ring leaders of the mob are supposed to be known."

4785

Georgia

Ohio

Lynchings - 1934

Prevented 6 ✓

4786

NEGRO SAVED FROM MOB IN YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio, July 20.—(AP)—George Johnson, 52-year-old negro wanderer, was held in jail here today for safe keeping after he had been threatened with lynching by a crowd of whites and negroes at East Alliance, Ohio, last night.

Johnson was charged with assaulting a 13-year-old East Alliance girl near a park known as the "Showgrounds." He was [illegible] by deputy sheriffs, who hurried him to the Alliance jail with the assistance of officers from that city through a crowd shouting: "Hang him!" He then was brought here.

7-21-34

The Constitution

Atlanta

Ga.

Lynchings - 1934
Prevented

Oklahoma

4787

Oklahoma Guardsmen To Aid Local Officers

Advertiser

OKLAHOMA CITY, Jan. 18.—(AP)—Under new orders from Gov. W. H. Murray the Oklahoma National Guard, 5,000 strong stands ready to back up local police officers in any emergency.

1-19-34

Adjt. Gen. Charles F. Barrett announced the innovation today, saying sheriffs or other local police officers now may communicate with the commander of their local guard units in emergencies and obtain ready assistance.

Montgomery, Ala.

Formerly it was necessary to call the Governor, who, in turn notified the Adjutant General, the latter, issuing orders to mobilize.

"In case of a bank robbery or threat of a mob, trained men will be available to keep order," Bartlett said.

Lynchings-1934
Prevented

South Carolina

4788

DISMISS CHURCH TO SAVE BOY FROM S.C. MOB

Afro American
5-28-34
Baltimore

SWANSEA, S.C. — Members of the A.C.E. League of Mount Olive Church dismissed services at the church Sunday afternoon to assist in the rescue of a local citizen from a mob.

Fred Bailey, the intended victim, had struck a white man during an altercation at a filling station near the church. The service was disturbed by the noise of several white ruffians who joined in the chase after Bailey.

Pastor Dismissed Church

The Rev. Nathaniel Harrington, pastor of Mount Olive, stepped outside the church to investigate, and upon seeing Bailey's plight, immediately dismissed the congregation to help in settling the trouble.

After a wild chase over roads and through fields, Bailey reached the home of Dan Thompson, but was grabbed by members of the mob before he could enter the house.

Thompson, armed with a shotgun, came out of his house just as the church members arrived, and Bailey was rescued. No police officers came to the scene.

Mob Of 1,000 Seek Negro Held In Attack

Advertiser

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 18.—(AP)—A mob of 1,000 men and women gathered about the county jail, clamoring for the life of a young negro accused of attacking a 13-year-old white girl, was virtually dispelled late tonight when Jailor E. E. Moser convinced the crowd that the prisoner had been removed to another jail.

5-19-34

The mob lost recruits as stragglers started moving off at 11 p.m., and an hour later the vicinity of the jail, on the edge of the business district, was deserted except for a small group which hung on to discuss the case.

Montgomery Ala.

The girl was attacked Wednesday in an industrial community near here as she was returning through a patch of woods from school. The attacker left her bound with parts of her own clothing.

GREENVILLE MOB FAILS TO GET ACCUSED NEGRO

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 19.—(AP)—Greenville was quiet tonight, in contrast with events of last night and early today, when a mob of approximately 1,000 men and women surged about the county jail, seeking the life of an unidentified negro held for assaulting a 13-year-old white girl.

Not until 3 a. m. today, when officers finally convinced the crowd the negro had been removed from the county, did the crowd disperse after a 4-hour demonstration.

Greenville officers guarded carefully both the negro's identity and present whereabouts. Reports the suspect had been taken to the state penitentiary at Columbia were denied there.

New York Evening Post

MAY 19 1934

LYNCH MOB FAILS IN SIEGE OF JAIL

Carolina Negro Accused of Attack on White Child Spirited Away as 1,000 Gather

GREENVILLE, S. C., April 19 (AP).—The timely removal of a young Negro, accused of attacking a thirteen-year-old white girl, to an unnamed prison today was credited with having prevented a charge upon the county jail here by a mob which at one time numbered around 1,000 persons.

Apparently convinced by officers' statements that the prisoner had been taken away some twelve hours before, the remnants of a mob which clamored for the Negro's life during the night finally dispersed shortly after 3 A. M. today, and Sheriff's deputies said they thought the "trouble is over."

Another Crowd Gathers

The milling and armed crowd, however, gave up its long vigil only after a group had dashed in automobiles to Gaffney, a town fifty miles away, to find that the Negro had not been taken there. When the men returned to Greenville, a smaller crowd gathered around the jail, but, apparently not knowing where to turn next, finally left.

The whereabouts of the Negro prisoner was a secret. There was a report that he had been taken to the State Penitentiary at Columbia, but officials of the penitentiary said he had not been received there. Greenville officers insisted he had not been kept in the jail here overnight.

Huge Bonfire Built

While the mob milled around the jail during the earlier part of the night, another crowd built a huge bonfire on the edge of town, near the place where the girl was assaulted Wednesday as she was returning from school, and prepared to lynch the Negro in the event the mob should find him.

On the afternoon of the attack, a posse formed quickly and scoured the countryside for the unidentified Negro. Twenty Negroes were jailed the next day. All except one, whose name officers have refused to divulge, were released.

The victim of the attack was taken to the jail yesterday but was unable to identify the prisoner, although officers said she remarked that "he looks a little like the man."

At dusk yesterday the mob began forming around the jail. Shotguns and rifles were displayed openly as the crowd grew. Several speeches, for and against lynching the Negro, were made from the steps of the jail.

Jailer E. Moser argued with the mob that the Negro had been removed during the afternoon to a jail in another county, but the mob continued milling about the jail grounds. Finally, at 11 P. M., Jailer Moser made another speech to the crowd, and they seemed to accept his word that he did not have the prisoner. The mob finally dispersed.

Charleston, S. C., News & Courier
May 20, 1934

What is a "City"?

The jailer for Greenville county. E. E. Moser, moved a negro prisoner from the jail and saved him from a mob. That was highly creditable to Mr. Moser. It is disappointing that a lynching could be threatened in the heart of the city of Greenville. It raises the question whether or not Greenville is a city. Cities are presumed to be adequately policed, and lynchings in them are exceedingly rare. One has heard of them in such towns as Omaha, Nebraska, and Tulsa, Oklahoma, but we have not heard of a mob making a serious attempt to lynch in Columbia or in Charleston. Greenville has a population of 30,000 and claims that 60,000 live within its urban area. How much assistance did Jailer Moser receive from the Greenville city government? No matter how many people live together in one area, whether a hundred thousand or a million, it is a city only in the slimmest, most technical definition if a mob can take charge of the jail without resistance from city authorities.

CHARLESTON, S. C.
NEWS

MAY 20 1934

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NEGRO HIDDEN TO BALK SOUTH CAROLINA MOB

Constitution
9-27-34
Atlanta

FLORENCE, S. C., Sept. 26.—(AP) Roosevelt James, 25-year-old negro, charged with an attempted attack on a young white woman, today was being held in an undisclosed prison where he was spirited late yesterday after signs of high feeling developed.

The alleged attack occurred September 17 and James was arrested Monday night but the fact was not generally known until his removal to the undisclosed prison.

NEGRO PRISONER SAVED BY CAROLINA SHERIFF

DARLINGTON, S. C., Nov. 20.—(AP)—Sheriff J. H. Cooker today revealed that a band of masked men came to the county jail last night, overpowered George Stokes, the jailer, and made a search for Jim Cooper, negro held in the slaying of a white man.

11/21/34

Some hours before the masked band arrived, Sheriff Coker had removed the negro to an unannounced jail.

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Lynchings-1934
Prevented.

Tennessee.

4789

Tennessee Guardsmen Restore Order After Battle With Mob

Threatened Destruction Of Jail Prevented By State Militiamen After Crowd Tries To Take Negro Accused Of Assault

COURTHOUSE IS BURNED TO GROUND

Two Are Killed And Many Injured As Crowd Storms Building At Shelbyville During Trial; Little Village Remains Quiet

By United Press.

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 20.—Three hundred National Guardsmen entered Shelbyville early today to establish order and protect property from a mob which burned the courthouse and threatened destruction of other public buildings.

Three companies from Nashville and Jackson arrived in trucks shortly before 8 a.m. and officers prepared to station them at posts in the business district. Two other companies from Athens and Cleveland were expected shortly.

Local officials believed the mob which had terrorized the city since yesterday morning, when it unsuccessfully attempted to take by force from a courtroom a young Negro being tried on charges of criminally assaulting a white schoolgirl, had dispersed completely.

Only a few early risers were on the streets and there were no signs of another mob gathering. Members of the pillaging band apparently had abandoned threats to dynamite the jail.

Courthouse In Ruins

Ruins marked the site of the County Courthouse, scene of yesterday's fighting between 100 National Guardsmen and a mob of more than 1000 in which two were killed and 19 injured, eight seriously, two critically.

A Negro hotel had been damaged also by fire.

The small Police Department was barricaded in the City Hall to prevent it being dynamited and the sheriff and his family had fled for their lives.

Grave fears were felt for the safety of Ollie Gant, 42, brother of Sheriff Tom Gant. James Dugan, former deputy, reported early today that he saw several members of the mob force him into an automobile late yesterday when the mob's anger against the sheriff was at its height. He has not been seen since.

Prisoners Are Removed

The mob was still formed at 3 a.m. Fourteen to 16 cars were seen repeatedly racing through the streets in procession and each was believed to contain from six to 10 men. Their intention of dynamiting the jail had been announced and the 24 prisoners held there had been removed.

A United Press correspondent made a tour of the Negro section several square blocks of cabins and shacks. It was a city of the dead. Not a sign of life could be detected. All doors were barricaded. Attempting to arouse someone, the correspondent pounded on doors. Several times he heard moans and once a prayer for mercy. One Negro said they all expected the section to be burned by the mob.

Technically martial law does not exist, but troops assume all responsibility for maintaining peace and protecting life and property until the mob spirit has waned, authorities said.

Mob Rushes Courthouse

E. K. Harris, 22-year-old Negro, accused of a criminal assault on a 14-year-old white girl, object of the mob's wrath, was safe in the Nashville County Jail. His trial was beginning with a jury already selected when the mob, forming at morning around the courthouse, rushed the building. A mistrial was declared. The National Guard escort of 100, which brought Harris here from Nashville where he had been held since his arrest, went into action.

Thereafter, events followed rapidly.

The mob rushed the courthouse four separate times. Each time tear gas bombs and bursts of machine gun and rifle fire, mostly directed over its head, drove it back. But several times, soldiers and rioters locked in hand to hand fighting.

Harris was put into a National Guard uniform. His hands were gloved and a gas mask put over his face. In this way he was spirited from the building and taken to Nashville.

The National Guardsmen retreated to their camp outside the town to avoid further bloodshed. Enraged, the mob burned four guard trucks. Sheriff Gant tried to calm the crowd. He was stoned. Soon after dusk, the mob leaders broke into his office in the courthouse, saturated it with gasoline and applied a torch.

Sheriff Flees

The Fire Department attempted to fight the flames. The hose was cut and ladders upset. Within a few minutes the two-story high-ceiling structure, built in 1867 and having a replacement value of $200,000, was in ruins.

"Let's lynch the sheriff," yelled the mob's leaders. Gant hurriedly gathered his wife, two sons and daughter and fled. All evening the mob searched for him, blaming him for its failure to get Harris.

At midnight the Negro hotel caught on fire, but the flames were extinguished before it was destroyed. A Negro blacksmith shop was set on fire by flying sparks but the damage was slight.

The death toll was set at two by County Health Officer James L. Morton, but only one body was at the morgue—that of R. E. Edwards who was killed by a 45-caliber bullet that entered his chest and came out through the spine. Dr. Morton said a man in a dying condition was taken to Shelbyville Hospital soon after the fighting. The man died as Dr. Morton prepared to treat his gunshot wounds.

Many Are Injured

He turned to other wounded. When he finished the body was gone, he said. He believed it had been taken by relatives.

Eight of the wounded required hospitalization and two—Pat Laws and Gilford Freeman—were in critical condition from gunshot wounds. The others were treated for bayonet gashes and heads cracked by rifle butts.

The mob was said to be made up chiefly of men from neighboring farming communities, led by a group from the section of Shelbyville known as the "Bloody" 18th District where the alleged assault occurred. Many members of the mob were alleged to be intoxicated.

Shelbyville has a popul[illegible] 5000.

Troops Restore Quiet In Shelbyville, Tenn.

Call

34

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn.—Quiet was restored to this mob-ridden town Thursday after a mob of 500 whites burned the $150,000 Bedford county courthouse when they failed to get a 22-year-old Negro prisoner, E. R. Harris who was on trial for assaulting a white girl.

Two members of the mob were killed and a score wounded in a rain of machine gun fire from members of the national guard.

Harris, through a ruse, was spirited away in the face of the mob. Disguised in a national guardsman uniform with gas mask attached, he was rushed to Nashville for safekeeping.

Judge T. L. Coleman, presiding over the Negro's case, declared a mistrial when mob sentiment mounted. He dismissed the jury and turned the prisoner over to troops in the courthouse.

Thursday night 600 troops were on duty to prevent any further outbreaks.

SHELBYVILLE QUIET; TROOPS PREPARING TO QUIT CITY TODAY

Commercial Appeal

Echoing Pistol Shots on Outskirts "Just Christmas Celebration," Sheriff Says

12-23-34

SHOPPERS FILL TOWN

Memphis

Holiday Buying Resumed in Peaceful Manner

INVESTIGATIONS STARTED

Grand Jury and Federal Officers Will Hold Inquiries—Vigilantes Prepared to Preserve Peace

BY HILTON BUTLER
Commercial Appeal Staff Correspondent

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 22.—National Guardsmen tonight were preparing to evacuate Shelbyville early tomorrow, leaving the riot-torn and fire-swept Bedford County seat in temporary control of a deputized force of 100 private citizens.

Today — regarded as the "zero hour" in the aftermath of the fatal rioting Wednesday, passed in reasonable calm.

There was an occasional firing of pistols by occupants of automobiles on the outskirts of the city, but guardsmen reported no attempt of the armed occupants to enter the well protected little city.

"Christmas celebration" was the explanation offered by Sheriff Tom Gant.

Fear No Trouble

"We fear no trouble," he said. "In addition to the 100 men I have already deputized and armed. we have 200 more in reserve for service when the National Guard departs."

So outwardly calm became the situation today that Col. R. H. Bond of Jackson, commanding the 550 officers and and men on riot duty here, began preparations early tonight for their departure at 3 a.m., tomorrow.

A proclamation published by Mayor T. L. Thompson pronounced "the streets of Shelbyville safe." It was printed by the thousands and distributed into all sections of the county in an effort to bring in the belated Christmas trade, thoroughly disrupted since the rioting Wednesday that resulted in four members of a mob being killed, 22 wounded, and the $150,000 courthouse completely destroyed by fire.

"The ashes are cool today on the scene of the greatest catastrophe in Shelbyville's history," said the proclamation.

"Human lives have been forfeited and one of Tennessee's most beautiful courthouses is a smouldering ruin.

"The measure of further penalties must be taken in the years to come."

Grand Jury to Act

The first step in bringing mob members to account will be held in January when the Bedford County

Judge Tom L. Coleman, of Lewisburg, said.

The second action is likely to be a federal investigation of the destruction by the mob of four army motor trucks that brought the first detachment of troops to Shelbyville Wednesday when E. K. Harris, 22-year-old negro farm hand, was being placed on trial for the assault of a 14-year-old school girl.

Tentative investigation of the burning was made today by officers under Col. B. H. Bond. They began the work of identifying persons who posed for photographs taken by the side of the burning trucks Wednesday afternoon. Also in their possession is a photograph showing members of the mob wielding guns. In the forefront was John Gibson, 58-year-old Bedford County farmer, the father of the girl whose alleged attack by the negro precipitated the rioting.

Gibson was among those of the Flat Creek community in attendance today at the funeral of Floyd P. Lawes, 28-year-old farmer and relative of the Gibson family. Lawes was fourth to die as a result of the clash between the mob and the guardsmen.

Reports Discounted

Reports that there was a flourishing of pistols and a warning of coming trouble at the funeral were dismissed by National Guard officers, who had members of their intelligence unit at the funeral dressed as civilians.

"Less than a hundred people were there, and half of those were women," reported Lieut. Sam Wallace of Jackson.

Gibson, talking freely today to reporters, renewed the quiet word that "we will never forget, and these fires will be burning for a long time to come."

But he said he was not going to make an early attempt to come back to Shelbyville.

"You couldn't drive that mob back to Shelbyville today if you had shotguns at their backs," said a brother-in-law to Gibson.

He apparently knew what he was talking about. Not a single leader in the mob that was here Wednesday was seen in Shelbyville today or tonight, local officials advised National Guardsmen.

"They may be waiting for the guard to leave," said U. S. Commissioned Ed Nance, organizer of the vigilante committee of 100.

"If that is their plan, they will find Shelbyville ready to meet them—either with firearms or the hand of peace, whichever they prefer."

Wholesale roundup of suspected bootlegging points was undertaken early today as a precautionary move. Twenty-seven search warrants were issued. There were nine men in jail tonight, six of them negroes. The guard at the jail was increased to 50 men. A heavy guard likewise remains at the home of Sheriff Gant, against whom threats of violence were hurled after he had succeeded in getting the negro away from a mob that invaded Shelbyville the night of the alleged crime.

Remains in Nashville

The negro remains in Nashville. Judge Coleman said that it would not be necessary that he be brought back to Shelbyville again when a motion for a change of venue is to be argued before his next trial.

A mistrial was declared in his case Wednesday when the mob broke up the court session and later burned down the courthouse.

Of the white men arrested by local police today, one was accused of drunk and disorderly conduct after he had been pulling a knife and slashing at negroes who passed a downtown street corner.

Another was arrested for disturbing the peace, but officers reported it to be merely a family quarrel. He made it more public, however, when he leaped at Policeman Sam Landers and, in the fashion of the wrestling ring, kicked him in the chest with both feet. Fellow officers, rushing up, brought him to the jail.

If friends of the white men had any intention of trying to force their release, the evidence of it was not visible tonight. But it was attempted jailing of a white man Wednesday that was the first flash of mob rule that day. They lost little time in dragging him away from the Shelbyville officers.

The negroes arrested today apparently were glad to get a chance to spend a few days in jail. The talk of possible racial trouble upon departure of the troops tomorrow is still too serious to be discounted by local authorities. The armed vigilantes will begin patrolling the streets in co-operation with local police after the guardsmen leave.

Negro Draws Pistol

One of the negroes arrested today drew a pistol on the officers they reported. The negro later explained that he thought they were members of a mob invading his home.

Mystery began to clear today as to the identity of one of the four men killed in the Wednesday riot. Three were previously identified as Raleigh Edwards, 30, Shelbyville house painter; Gilford Freeman, 48, Petersburg farmer, and Floyd Pat Lawes, 28, Bedford County farmer and one-time Shelbyville city fireman. Although the name of the fourth man has not yet been learned, Constable Oley Watson reported that investigation indicated he was a Marshall County man. He had just bought a new pair of boots at a Shelbyville store, and either as a member of the mob or a spectator, was caught in the riot gunfire of the troops as the courthouse was attacked, Constable Watson said.

His body was first placed upon the steps of the Bedford County Hospital and deserted by those who put it there. A few minutes later they came back and the body was taken away, the constable reported today, in an automobile that headed out a road leading to Marshall County.

Unofficial word went out today that the name of all those who had been wounded in the riot were to be used as the basis for the grand jury investigation.

Many of those wounded refused to give their names to reporters, at times threatening the questioners. A check of hospitals and physicians' offices revealed a total of 22 injured by bayonets or by gunfire on the day of the rioting.

Scattered groups were reported to have been seen on country roads today, several members of which were wearing fresh bandages.

A national guard airplane circled various points in the county during the day with the mission of reporting any unusual concentration of automobiles headed toward Shelbyville. Tonight the guardsmen had patrols on all roads leading into the city, and at a nearby bridge over which any cars from the Gibson family neighborhood would have to come.

WATERBURY, CONN.
REPUBLICAN

DEC 21 1934

A Lynching Prevented

IN fine contrast to the passivity of the Florida and Alabama authorities at the time of the horrible lynching at Marianna, Fla. on Oct. 26, the Tennessee authorities acted promptly and effectively Wednesday to prevent a lynching at Shelbyville. The contrast is the more dramatic because the national guardsmen called out to protect a Negro charged with assaulting a white girl did not hesitate to use all the force necessary to uphold the law. The result was the killing of two members of the mob and the wounding of a dozen more. That is deplorable but it is not dishonorable. On the contrary, it has saved the state from the black dishonor that the mob would have brought upon it.

The conduct of the Shelbyville mob after it was balked in its effort to perpetrate a lynching affords illuminating insight into the spirit of destructive fury that possesses a mob. When its intended victim had been whisked away from the courthouse where he was about to stand trial and the national guardsmen had left that building unprotected, the mob turned upon it and destroyed it. The loss is estimated at $100,000—which the members of the mob will now be taxed to make good. All in all, it was an expensive holiday for Shelbyville's sadistic citizens.

The lynching at Marianna was peculiarly atrocious in that it was planned in advance, was advertised widely, even over the radio, and was made an orgy of the most revolting cruelty and blood lust for men, women and children. But despite the fact that there was ample warning that it was to be perpetrated, the authorities of the two states did nothing to prevent it, and have done nothing since to punish the criminals responsible for it. The result has been a powerful increase in the strength of the demand for a federal anti-lynching law. If the authorities of all the southern states could be depended upon to act as the authorities of Tennessee did to avert the lynching at Shelbyville, there would be no need of such a law. But unhappily no such dependence can be placed and federal legislation seems a necessary experiment.

COLUMBUS, O.
CITIZEN

DEC 21 1934

A THWARTED LYNCHING

SHERIFF GANT did his duty when he tried to calm the mob at Shelbyville, Tenn.

Judge Coleman did his duty by declaring a mistrial in the case of E. K. Harris, the Negro, when the mob surrounded the Court House. The mob set fire to the Court House.

The Tennessee National Guard did its duty, training its guns upon the charging mob and carrying the prisoner away to safety. The mob overturned and burned the Guard's motor trucks.

Shelbyville police did their duty, risking their lives to save the City Hall from the torch.

The firemen did their duty, fighting the Court House flames. The mob cut the fire hose.

Governor McAllister did his duty by sending more troops to restore law and order in Shelbyville.

It now remains for Shelbyville prosecutors to punish the vandals and round out a perfect score of official courage in Tennessee—in this one case.

Back of the bloody Wednesday in Shelbyville were three successful lynchings in Tennessee in the last 18 months. Two white men and one Negro were the victims, and the latter was lynched in Bedford County, of which Shelbyville is the county seat. He was lynched after a grand jury had refused to indict him.

In those three lynchings, Tennessee officers did not do their duty, and because they failed mob spirit spread in the state.

But on Wednesday, Tennessee authorities demonstrated how a mob should be handled. A few more such salutary performances by local authorities might end cowardly lynchings in this country.

Lynchings-1934
Prevented

Tennessee

4790

Shelbyville Calm Under Guns of 600 Soldiers After Night of Mob-Bred Violence and Terror

The camera caught this scene at Shelbyville, Tenn., Wednesday afternoon just as a mob's attack on national guardsmen was nearing its lethal climax. The soldiers are drawn up at the right with bayonets fixed in their rifles, while at the left are the mob members.

◆

Between rolls a cloud of tear gas which was sufficient to check this rush toward the jail the soldiers are defending. A short time later, however, the mob rushed again and this time bullets, which killed two and wounded several others, were necessary to halt the charge.

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 20.—(AP)—First investigation into vandalism of a mob that ran wild here for more than 12 hours yesterday, leaving a trail of death and destruction, was revealed tonight by Colonel R. H. Bond, commander of national guard forces concentrated here. Peace meanwhile had been restored, though 600 guardsmen were still on duty.

The investigation was concerned, he said, with the burning of four national guard trucks, which the mob overturned and ignited. It was possible, he added, that department of justice agents would be assigned to assist in the probe, but they have not yet been requested to do so.

Guardsmen were stationed at a few strategic points in the town tonight. One patrol guarded the ruins of the Bedford county courthouse, about which rioting centered and which was burned last night at a loss of $150,000. Others were assigned to public buildings near by against possible efforts at carrying out dynamiting threats which have been rumored.

Troops Guard Sheriff.

Sheriff T. E. Gant came back to his home at the Bedford county jail late today and announced his intention of staying there despite any mob efforts to the contrary. A detail of 60 militiamen, working in shifts of 30 each, stood guard at the jail and the sheriff said he believed his family and he would be safe.

A proposal to form a vigilante committee was put forward in a mass meeting of citizens as a means of maintaining order.

The death toll of Wednesday's fighting mounted to three with the death about 5:50 p. m. of Gilford Freeman, 45, shot in the stomach.

Sheriff Gant and his son, John E. Gant, a deputy sheriff, came back to town today after an absence of more than 24 hours. Their safety was endangered by the mob which, when cheated of its intended victim, E. K. Harris, negro charged with assaulting a young white girl, turned to Gant as partly responsible for having thwarted the mob's purpose.

Gants Defy Mob.

The sheriff said he planned to remain at home "whether they'll let us or not." His son and he were "threatened several times" before they returned, he said, and "we have received a lot of threats since we got back."

Peaceful under the guardsmen's guns, Shelbyville turned to a mass meeting late today to survey yesterday's rioting which brought death to two mobsters and the burning of the courthouse.

High school classes were dismissed at noon so the building might be used for the mass meeting.

The mob members were killed as between 500 and 600 persons made three unsuccessful attempts to take E. K. Harris, young negro, on trial for attacking a 14-year-old white girl, from the courtroom.

Troopers fired tear gas to repulse the first storming of the courthouse entrance but in the second foray the guardsmen turned on the crowd with riot guns, gas and bayonets. Raleigh Edwards, 30, a house painter, dropped mortally wounded. The second victim was unidentified.

Meanwhile, investigation by authorities was delayed pending a conference between Judge T. L. Coleman and Prosecutor W. B. Knott, Judge Coleman said he was putting off the conference until certain that "things had quieted down."

The grand jury is in recess until January 21, but the court can call it into session at any time.

Although a jury had been selected, the trial of the negro ended shortly after the soldiers resorted to the gunfire by the declaration by the judge of a mistrial. The negro, garbed in trooper attire, was rushed to Nashville.

Rumors that the mob had set a 1 a. m. deadline to burn the jail, agreeing to permit removal of prisoners before a flame was applied, apparently were wild statements as the mob did not appear and the jail still stands.

Edwards, the first riot victim, was buried today after funeral services at his father's home. Besides his parents he is survived by his widow and three children. The body of the second victim was removed from the hospital before his identity could be learned. Indications were that he came from another county. He died in hand-to-hand fighting during the third attack on the courthouse.

About a score were wounded, several seriously.

The 600 fresh militiamen moved into Shelbyville during the morning hours under orders to remain until all danger is passed. Adjutant General J. H. Ballew arranged to keep them overnight at least.

These troops replaced three companies which participated in yesterday's turbulent hours. The guardsmen were sent here from Nashville as a precaution against efforts to lynch the negro.

Sullen because its efforts to get the negro were thwarted, the mob set fire to the courthouse a short time later and held off some of the firefighters until the building was beyond saving. Four trucks of the guardsmen were overturned and burned.

Lieutenant Colonel John R. Stark, in command of the guardsmen on duty here yesterday, said that "every shot that was fired by the guardsmen was fired in self-defense."

"The discipline of the men was absolutely perfect," he said, "and nobody who has not been through such an experience will never know the stinging epithets and the abuse which was heaped upon the boys from the time the mob began to form until they broke into the courthouse and the men were ordered to return the fire of the mob."

Shelbyville went about its affairs as usual today and the national guardsmen spent most of their time in their headquarters. There was no guard duty except at the headquarters, and the principal activity was the soldiers' marching to a hotel for their meals. General Ballew said there was no thought of declaring martial law.

INTERRACIAL COMMISSION COMMENDS GUARDSMEN

National guard protection at Shelbyville, Tenn., for an alleged negro attacker of a white girl on trial for the crime, was commended Wednesday by Dr. Will W. Alexander, director of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation.

"While everyone will deplore the sacrifice of human life in the conflict yesterday at Shelbyville," Dr. Alexander said, "no patriotic citizen can do other than commend Governor Hill McAlister for protecting the state government from those who were seeking for the time to destroy it.

"The question at issue was much more than that of protecting an individual charged with crime. Until people become able to restrain their passions and respect their own institutions of government, they may expect to pay the price when they attempt by force to overthrow these institutions.

"One can only hope that this deplorable incident will hasten a general recognition of the folly and criminality of mob violence and thus contribute to its early end. . . ."

Constitution 12-21-34 Atlanta, Ga.

Tennessee Mob Destroys Courthouse After Troops Kill Two, Wound Seven

500 Guardsmen Sent To Scene Of Race Riot Which Follows Sanguinary Warfare Started As Crowd Storms Court Building Three Times In Effort To Seize Negro On Trial For Assaulting White Girl

Advertiser

12-20-34

SHELBYVILLE, TENN., Dec. 19.—(AP)—A mob of several hundred persons, two of their number already slain and seven others wounded, milled about the ruins of the county courthouse here tonight as an army of national guardsmen hurried here to quell disorders growing out of a futile attempt to seize a negro.

Fed by gasoline, poured on by the mob, flames destroyed the $150,000 brick building which a few hours earlier had held the object of the mob's fury—a negro charged with assaulting a 14-year-old white girl.

The negro was whisked away, clad in a soldier's uniform, and taken to Nashville.

From over the State, 500 guardsmen were mobilized and rushed into Shelbyville under orders from Gov. Hill McAlister.

"We thought," the governor said, "that when we got the negro away it would be all right, but they took vengeance on their own courthouse. It was to prevent any further acts of this kind that I ordered the troops."

Force Ordered If Necessary.

The governor said he did not believe further use of force would be necessary, but that the guardsmen "will use it if necessary."

Montgomery Adv.

Angered by the ruse and apparently intent upon showering their wrath on guardsmen and the county officers, the mob sprinkled the [illegible]-year-old Bedford County courthouse with gasoline and set fire to it. Late tonight the building was a mass of ruins, and the mob, estimated between 300 to 500, was milling about the square.

Firemen said the mob hindered them in fighting the flames. Dynamite, which had been tossed into the courthouse building during the height of the disturbance in the day exploded tonight, but no one was injured by the blast. The courthouse was valued at $150,000 by Will Landers, circuit court clerk, who added that $50,000 insurance was carried on the structure.

Firemen Threatened.

One volunteer fireman said he and two companions were trying to connect a hose to extinguish a blaze which had broken out at the Dixie Hotel across the street from the courthouse.

Suddenly, he said, he heard a voice behind him saying, "Drop it or we'll drop you." They let the hose go and left the vicinity of the water plug immediately, he said.

The governor said it would be necessary to mobilize troops from units throughout the State and telephones were brought into use to complete the mobilization.

Three bloody attempts of the mob to invade the courthouse and carry off the alleged assailant of a 14-year-old white girl were stopped by the guardsmen. Early tonight the mob members milled through the streets, menacing any negro who appeared. Threats to invade the negro section of Shelbyville were heard from members of the mob.

The negro, E. K. Harris, was ready for trial when Circuit Judge T. L. Coleman ended the case at 3 p.m. by declaring a mistrial. The jury was dismissed and Harris hustled through the crowd to an automobile which sped away for Nashville.

Shortly afterward a Nashville photographer was escorted to the edge of the town and ordered to return to Nashville.

Efforts Made To Cut Hose

County Judge C. W. Phillips said it had been reported to him that attempts had been made to cut the hose at several places.

Other groups cut off the water at the plugs as rapidly as it was turned on while some men rolled up the hose again as fast as the firemen could unroll them.

Meanwhile, the blaze which at one time seemed would be brought under control spread rapidly into all sections of the old, high-ceilinged building.

Several small fires were reported in houses around the square but they were quickly put out without causing any important damage.

Dr. C. T. Carney, a member of the Board of Aldermen, tonight asked city officials to place a guard over the waterworks plant. He said he had received word that an attempt would be made to burn it. A police guard was around the plant.

The burning of the courthouse was the second fire of the day. Earlier four trucks of the national guard parked about a block from the square were burned and it was learned that mobsters had at that time, as later at the courthouse, prevented all efforts to extinguish the fire.

Before the trucks were ignited, national guard drivers had been dispatched to get them out of the way. The crowd turned them back, however, by stoning them.

List of Casualties

The casualty list of three attacks on the courthouse follows:

RALEIGH EDWARDS, 30, house painter, bayoneted through the stomach.

An unidentified white man.

Dying:

PAT LAWES, reported by his friends to be a relative of the girl involved in the case, shot through the head.

GILBERT FREEMAN, shot through the lungs and stomach.

Wounded:

MEAD JONES, shot in the hand and feet and bayoneted in the feet; condition serious.

EVERETT PATTERSON, shot in the leg.

HERSCHEL NEELY, minor gunshot wound.

W. M. CLAYTON, bayonet wound in the side.

JAMES BLEDSOE, shot in the feet.

Other less seriously wounded men were not identified and a few members of the mob and bystanders suffered severely from tear gas.

Mistrial Declared

As the excitement of the mob rose to its height, Judge T. L. Coleman, before whom Harris's trial on a charge of attacking a white girl, was in progress declared a mistrial and dismissed the jury. The jury had been completed at 2 p.m., and, after an hour-long recess the Judge ended the trial at 3 p.m.

The first assault on the courthouse occurred at 11:45 a.m. when there was only one casualty, an unidentified man being cut on the head by a bayonet. The mob's attack then was met by hand-to-hand fighting.

The guardsmen stood in front of the courthouse, bayonets drawn, tear gas bombs ready, in extended order, while others of their number manned machine guns at the windows. Fifty yards away, across the courthouse lawn and street, gathered angry men shouting at the troops and building the spirit for another attack.

At 2:15 p.m. a guard officer waived his arm and summoned the mob in an attempt to address it. The nerves of the troops and mob members were tense as they gathered about him, and, in a moment, violence flared again.

At close quarters, the troops wielded bayonets and hurled tear gas at their attackers.

The mob retreated again, leaving behind Edwards, killed by a bayonet wound in his stomach. There were a few minor casualties.

As the angry men again marshalled their forces across from the courthouse, Col. John R. Stark, of Nashville, commanding the troops, turned to Adj. Gen. J. H. Ballew and said, "don't you think I had better bring them in?"

Ballew nodded and the troops were ordered inside the courthouse to prepare for the next charge, which appeared certain to come.

It came at 3 p.m. Shouting and brandishing clubs and pistols, the men ran toward the courthouse. They reached the courthouse porch without a move from the guardsmen.

One man, in the forefront, seized a bench on the porch and crashed it through the glass of the front door. The guardsmen opened fire. Pat Lawes was shot through the head and fell eight feet from the porch to the concrete walk below.

The firing became general, and several men in the mob dropped. Sullenly it retreated for the third time.

Negro Flees In Uniform

A few minutes later a squad of guardsmen rushed out of the courthouse to an automobile and drove away. One of their number, dressed in a uniform and wearing a gas mask, was Harris. Too late the crowd sensed what had happened and its ire turned towards remaining officers and troops.

Three men carrying a stick of dynamite then made their way to a corner of the courthouse, but, for some reason, abandoned the apparent plan to blast the building.

The troops, with guns at port arms and ready to fire, marched out of the courthouse shortly afterward, while the mob shouted epithets and threw stones.

Meanwhile, at the Bedford County Hospital, Dr. James L. Morton, superintendent, and his staff were busy amid the groans of wounded and dying men.

"Lawes is dying right now," he said, "Gilbert Freeman, too, and we may lose Mead Jones. Raleigh Edwards is dead, and another dead man was left on our porch a few minutes and then taken away before we could get to him. I don't know who he could have been."

A check of funeral establishments failed to reveal the man's identity.

As darkness came, mob members continued to shout and fire infrequent shots into the air. Some vented their wrath on the four national guard trucks parked near the courthouse. After they had been set afire, the Fire Department tried unsuccessfully to salvage them.

Negro Population Threatened

Firing of pistols continued until late tonight, and therats continued against the negro population.

Today's disorders followed by exactly a month potential mob action on the day of Harris's arrest, Nov. 19.

The crime with which the negro was charged with the criminal assault of a 14-year-old white girl, a student of the Stump Valley School, several miles out in the country from Shelbyville.

The girl was attacked about 1 p.m. on the day, while temporarily excused from classes and a few minutes after she had left the bilding. The attack occurred, officers said, in some bushes at the edge of the cleared area in which the school is situated.

Menaced By Mob Before

Harris was arrested in Shelbyville about 7 p.m. by city policemen. Immediately afterward a mob began forming outside the city jail, and officers left with Harris for Murfreesboro in Rutherford County, about 50 miles away.

They hardly had reached there, however, when Sheriff W. F. McCrory was notified that aroused citizens were en route from Shelbyville to storm the jail. It was decided to take Harris on to Nashville.

Policeman A. S. Hamilton, one of the arresting officers, said "I knew they would string him up," of the mob which formed that day.

Harris was kept in jail at Nashville until early today, when he was brought here for trial by an escort of national guardsmen.

Lynchings-1934
Prevented

Tennessee

4791

Literary Digest
N.Y.
DEC 29 1934

Nation Cheers as Tennessee Prevents Lynching

Resolute Action Taken by National Guardsmen Called Out by the Governor; Frustrated Mob Sets Fire to Court-House

© International

Guardsmen repulsing the lynching mob in front of the Shelbyville court-house

The resolute action by National Guardsmen called out by Gov. Hill McAlister in preventing a lynching at Shelbyville, Tennessee, at the cost of four lives, elicited the admiration of the country. Those killed were members of the mob which had challenged the law. Half a dozen others were wounded by bayonet or gunshot.

In revenge for this stern defense of justice and for the successful withdrawal of their intended victim at the height of the battle, the frustrated mob fired the court-house and four trucks belonging to the militia. This was after the 111 Guardsmen had retired from the scene and spirited away E. K. Harris, Negro, who was being tried at the time of the riotous outbreak for an alleged attack on a fourteen-year-old white girl. The prisoner was taken back to Nashville, from where he had been brought for trial.

The Tennessee Guardsmen set one of the few records in which the full strength of the law has been used to prevent mob murder. The destruction of the court-house was a pyrrhic victory, since those who destroyed it must help pay the cost of a new one. "Their behavior, like that of so many lynching parties," said *The Christian Science Monitor*, "was indicative not so much of desire for justice as for an outlet for all the base and violently aimless emotions which swarm around the appetite for revenge."

The outrage afforded a striking commentary on President Roosevelt's speech to the Crime Conference at Washington, in which he called attention to the need of coping with "horrifying lynchings," and observed that they were unfortunately "no longer confined to one section of the country." The Crime Conference, however, did not include lynching in its discussion. Admitting that it is possible to condone mob violence "when it is induced by rage against a failure of the law in the administration of justice," the Washington *Star* said, however, "when the mob demands the right of trial and execution in replacement of the court in the very act of functioning, with assurance of speedy justice, the climax of abomination is reached. When in its disappointment the mob destroys the very hall of justice, it confesses its possession by a criminal impulse more shocking and more menacing than the crime that inflames its passions."

Twice the Guardsmen repulsed a charge by the mob. Col. John R. Stark of Nashville, in command of the detachment, suggested to J. H. Ballew, Adjutant General, that the Guardsmen retreat inside the court-house to prepare for a new attack. Soon the mob reformed and charged again. A man in the lead hurled a bench through the glass door, and the soldiers fired. Pat Lawes, said to be a relative of the girl allegedly attacked by Harris, fell mortally wounded. Others lay stretched on the ground.

Meanwhile, at the height of the battle, Circuit Judge T. L. Coleman declared a mistrial, and Harris, dressed in a soldier's uniform, his face covered with a gas-mask, was rushed out of the building and into an automobile driven by General Ballew. It was after the retirement of the troops that the vengeful mob turned to the torch. Later 500 fresh Guardsmen moved into Shelbyville, under orders to remain until all danger had passed. Steps looking to an investigation were taken, and a mass-meeting of business men launched a movement to establish a vigilante committee to preserve law and order and prevent further outbreaks of racial hatred after the troops left.

It was said later that most of the mob came from the rural sections of the county and from near-by counties and that the townspeople were helpless against the invasion. Deputy Sheriff John E. Kent said that most of the invaders "were crazy drunk. . . . The mob just kept pushing the Guardsmen until they had to take action."

The press, particularly the Southern press, commended Governor McAlister.

The year's record of lynchings was not in at the time of writing. The total number in 1933 was 28, of which three occurred in Tennessee. This was twenty less than in 1932, according to the figures compiled by the Tuskegee Institute.

Lynchings-1934
Prevented

Tennessee.

4792

SHELBYVILLE QUIET AFTER TROOPS LEAVE

Danger of Violence Believed Past

Commercial Appeal

SHERIFF IS WELL ARMED

12-24-34

Promises Prompt Action at the First Hint of Trouble—Constables' Car Is Target for Bullets Fired by "Drunk"

Memphis, Tenn.

By The Associated Press

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 23.—National Guard troops, sent here following Wednesday's mob riots in which four men were killed and the courthouse burned, evacuated Shelbyville early today and officials expressed belief that danger of further violence was past.

However, Sheriff T. E. Gant, against whom mobsters made threats because of his actions in protecting a negro prisoner, kept a watchful eye on the situation and was prepared to act promptly in event of trouble. Co-operating with him was a committee of vigilantes.

Sheriff Prepared

"I don't want to hurt anybody, but we can't and we won't let anybody run over us," the sheriff said. Five shotguns were stacked in a corner of his living room at the county jail and his son, J. E. Gant, remarked that "We've got plenty of buckshot."

The 537 officers and men of the National Guard pulled out of town a few minutes after 3 a.m. Some went by special train and others by troop trucks, buses and private automobiles.

Sunday passed quietly. About 9 o'clock the people began arriving for Sunday school and church services, and during the morning religious hours few were on the streets. There was a small group around the courthouse ruins, where a fire still smouldered among debris in the basement.

The courthouse was fired Wednesday night, a few hours after guardsmen had repulsed with riot guns a mob that three times stormed the entrance of the structure in efforts to lay hands on E. K. Harris, negro on trial for an alleged attack on a young school girl. The guardsmen left before the fire and were replaced by other troops which moved in the next morning.

Police Drive Planned

City Judge C. C. Smith said that "we plan to keep a tight rein" on the situation and that a drive to clean the town of bootleggers would be resumed with renewed vigor tomorrow. Persons found drunk and disorderly "will be thrown into jail just as fast as we can arrest them," he declared. A number of raids were made Saturday. A "drunk" was blamed for two shots fired at County Constable Olie Watson last night as he drove to a country community in answer to a call. The shots struck his automobile, but he escaped injury.

After being fired upon, Watson stopped his car and fired six times with his own pistol at a man he saw standing in a field. The man ran and apparently was not wounded.

The shooting "had no connection" with earlier mob violence the constable said.

Nation Cheers as Tennessee Prevents Lynching

Resolute Action Taken by National Guardsmen Called Out by the Governor; Frustrated Mob Sets Fire to Court-House

© International

Guardsmen repulsing the lynching mob in front of the Shelbyville court-house

Literary Digest
12-29-34

The resolute action by National Guardsmen called out by Gov. Hill McAlister in preventing a lynching at Shelbyville, Tennessee, at the cost of four lives, elicited the admiration of the country. Those killed were members of the mob which had challenged the law. Half a dozen others were wounded by bayonet or gunshot.

In revenge for this stern defense of justice and for the successful withdrawal of their intended victim at the height of the battle, the frustrated mob fired the court-house and four trucks belonging to the militia. This was after the 111 Guardsmen had retired from the scene and spirited away E. K. Harris, Negro, who was being tried at the time of the riotous outbreak for an alleged attack on a fourteen-year-old white girl. The prisoner was taken back to Nashville, from where he had been brought for trial.

The Tennessee Guardsmen set one of the few records in which the full strength of the law has been used to prevent mob murder. The destruction of the court-house was a pyrrhic victory, since those who destroyed it must help pay the cost of a new one. "Their behavior, like that of so many lynching parties," said *The Christian Science Monitor*, "was indicative not so much of desire for justice as for an outlet for all the base and violently aimless emotions which swarm around the appetite for revenge."

The outrage afforded a striking commentary on President Roosevelt's speech to the Crime Conference at Washington, in which he called attention to the need of coping with "horrifying lynchings," and observed that they were unfortunately "no longer confined to one section of the country." The Crime Conference, however, did not include lynching in its discussion. Admitting that it is possible to condone mob violence "when it is induced by rage against a failure of the law in the administration of justice," the Washington *Star* said, however, "when the mob demands the right of trial and execution in replacement of the court in the very act of functioning, with assurance of speedy justice, the climax of abomination is reached. When in its disappointment the mob destroys the very hall of justice, it confesses its possession by a criminal impulse more shocking and more menacing than the crime that inflames its passions."

Twice the Guardsmen repulsed a charge by the mob. Col. John R. Stark of Nashville, in command of the detachment, suggested to J. H. Ballew, Adjutant General, that the Guardsmen retreat inside the court-house to prepare for a new attack. Soon the mob reformed and charged again. A man in the lead hurled a bench through the glass door, and the soldiers fired. Pat Lawes, said to be a relative of the girl allegedly attacked by Harris, fell mortally wounded. Others lay stretched on the ground.

Meanwhile, at the height of the battle, Circuit Judge T. L. Coleman declared a mistrial, and Harris, dressed in a soldier's uniform, his face covered with a gas-mask, was rushed out of the building and into an automobile driven by General Ballew. It was after the retirement of the troops that the vengeful mob turned to the torch. Later 500 fresh Guardsmen moved into Shelbyville, under orders to remain until all danger had passed. Steps looking to an investigation were taken, and a mass-meeting of business men launched a movement to establish a vigilante committee to preserve law and order and prevent further outbreaks of racial hatred after the troops left.

It was said later that most of the mob came from the rural sections of the county and from near-by counties and that the townspeople were helpless against the invasion. Deputy Sheriff John E. Kent said that most of the invaders "were crazy drunk. . . . The mob just kept pushing the Guardsmen until they had to take action."

The press, particularly the Southern press, commended Governor McAlister.

The year's record of lynchings was not in at the time of writing. The total number in 1933 was 28, of which three occurred in Tennessee. This was twenty less than in 1932, according to the figures compiled by the Tuskegee Institute.

RACES

White Blood for Black

The three-day race riot at Knoxville in 1921 splotched an ugly stain on the State of Tennessee. Last week Tennessee wiped away its 13-year-old stain with the blood of four white men.

Lillian Gibson, a Tennessee hill girl of 15, lived at Fall Creek, went to school at Stump Valley, near Shelbyville. One afternoon last month she started home after school. A while later, her teacher said, Lillian came running frantically back. Her clothes were partly torn off, her body bitten and bruised. She was screaming "I'm gonna have a baby!"

That night John Gibson, Lillian's father, and a wrathful posse of 300 hillmen scoured the woods, caught a 22-year-old illiterate Negro named E. K. Harris. He was accused of Lillian's rape, taken to the Shelbyville jail. When a hill-billy mob went to Shelbyville, demanding that Harris be turned over to them, authorities spirited Harris away, first to Murfreesboro, then up to Nashville.

Last week Harris' trial was scheduled to begin at Shelbyville. Circuit Judge Coleman sensed trouble. The sheriff requested from Governor Hill McAlister enough militiamen to prevent disorder. Accordingly, when Harris was brought into Shelbyville he was riding in an olive drab militia truck and men from three companies of the 117th Tennessee National Guard were riding along with him.

Father Gibson had inflamed his mountain neighbors by telling them that Dr. E. E. Moody, a general practitioner of Shelbyville, had told him that Lillian was pregnant. The backcountry folk in turn rallied hundreds of Shelbyville's rabble, marched on the court house when the trial started. In the court room, Judge Coleman heard the mob shouting outside, tried to calm spectators with the assurance that it was just some sort of Christmas parade. No parade, the mobsters charged the court house twice. The 110 guardsmen returned tear gas for rocks, held firm. The third time the mob charged, militia officers, determined to hold the court house, ordered: "Fire!" A countryman named Pat Lawes spun around like a top, fell eight feet from the court house porch to a concrete walk below, dying. A house painter named Edwards dropped with a bullet through his chest. Two other countrymen were mortally wounded. Twenty in the mob were peppered in the legs with buckshot.

As the would-be lynchers turned tail under the blast, Judge Coleman hastily declared a mistrial, ruefully admitted that the attempt to prosecute the case at Shelbyville was "a mistake." Guardsmen wrapped puttees around Negro Harris' trembling legs, clapped a gas mask over his black face, covered his shabby sweater with a militia greatcoat, rushed him out to an automobile. Determined officers sped the blackamoor to Nashville and safety. Their job done, the troops marched out to the edge of Shelbyville and pitched camp.

Stakes were barely in the ground before the infuriated mobsters returned to the court house square. They upturned four National Guard trucks, set them afire. Then they stormed the 75-year-old court house, sloshed gasoline all over its floors, touched it off with matches. Firemen never had a chance. The mob stood guard over their work until the large brick building was a roaring furnace. The court house burned all night. All county records were destroyed.

Acme

DEFENDANT HARRIS

The courthouse, not he, was lynched.

Shelbyville businessmen, aroused at the havoc their country cousins and excitable fellow townsmen had wrought, held a mass meeting, formed a vigilante corps. Dr. Moody told newshawks that he thought that Lillian was not pregnant, had not actually been raped. Indeed, she was back at school.

Nevertheless Father Gibson swore a mighty oath, declaring: "The fire hain't started to burn yet. Our people back in the hills ain't agoin' to forget. They can keep the National Guards here for months, but that won't matter. I took Pat Lawes, who was my nephew by marriage, and Gill Freeman with me to the trial in my truck. Now both of 'em are dead. Governor McAlister is the man who did it all."

MILWAUKEE, WIS.
LEADER
DEC 21 1934

ONE LYNCHING PREVENTED

A lynching, in Tennessee, has been prevented. The governor called out the guard. The intended victim was whisked away from Shelbyville to Nashville. The mob took vengeance by burning the county courthouse. Three members of the mob were killed, and others wounded.

Gov. Hill McAllister is to be commended for his decisive action. It is unthinkable that mobs are to be allowed to take the law into their own hands whenever they see fit. We can't have rule by mobs nor rule by vigilantes if we are to have organized government. Mob rule, or vigilante rule, is anarchy.

MIAMI, FLA.
NEWS
DEC 25 1934

Preventing Lynchings

Threats of lynching ~~following the~~ murder of a filling station operator near the Florida-Alabama line, not far from the scene of recent mob violence, disappear as officials prepare promptly to protect their prisoners.

National guardsmen leave Shelbyville, Tenn., with peace restored after a shocking demonstration of tragic hatred in the human herd and commendably stern resistance by government forces. Four men are dead, the courthouse and four troop trucks burned, but the mob has been denied its prey and civilized society has gained a notable victory in its efforts to substitute justice for vengeance.

There is stiff resistance in the South, where state's rights are cherished, to a federal anti-lynching law. Let the states continue to show such courage in defense of their rights and the federal measure will not be needed.

Lynchings-1934
6
Prevented

Tennessee

4793

Negro Saved From Mob Violence In Tennessee

4-5-34

Montgomery, Ala.

McKENZIE, TENN., April 4—(AP)—A negro described by Sheriff M. J. McLemore as "crazy" apparently had been saved from mob violence today following his confession that he participated in the slaying of a couple near Trezevant nearly a year ago.

The negro was spirited away to an unannounced jail after he made the confession here yesterday. Officers said they had reports a mob was forming.

Sheriff McLemore said the negro was crazy and that he was inclined to discount his confession, at least in part but that he would investigate the negro's revelations before taking furth action.

Negro Confesses Murder of Couple

Prisoner Is Moved to Safety After Revealing Crime

Telegraph

4-5-34

Macon, Ga.

McKENZIE, Tenn., April 4. (AP)—A young Negro was held at an unannounced jail today following hi confession last night of slaying a couple near Trezevant a year ago robbing them of $17 and setting fir to their home.

Shortly after the confession was made public here yesterday, officers received reports of the formation of a mob, so they spirited the prisoner to a jail in another city. They would not reveal their destination.

The Negro's confession, officers said, involved another Negro and two white men in the crime. They were being sought today.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Barksdale were slain in their home seven miles north of Trezevant on Austin Peay highway in June a year ago. They were robbed of $17 and left in their home, to which their assailants set fire before escaping.

BROTHERS SAVED FROM MOB OF 200

Two Kentuckians Held For Assault Removed To Memphis Jail

Advertiser

MEMPHIS, TENN., June 6.—(AP)—Rescued from a mob of 200 men who threatened to storm the jail at Dyersburg, Tenn., where they were arrested in connection with an attack on an elderly woman, two youthful Kentuckians were held in the attack-proof Shelby County Jail here tonight for safekeeping.

The prisoners, who described themselves as William Nunnley, 26, and George Nunnley, 23, of [illegible], Ky., were smuggled out of the Dyer County Jail early last night by Sheriff A. H. Newbill.

Montgomery, Ala.

Advised that several carloads of Kentuckians were en route from Smithland, Ky., to Dyersburg to join a crowd already there in a raid on the jail, Sheriff Newbill hurried the two prisoners out of the back door of the jail, wrapped in sheets, put them in a waiting car, and drove to Memphis, arriving early today.

Sheriff Newbill said the two men, brothers, are charged with attacks on two women in Kentucky and a 76-year-old woman near Dyersburg, Tenn.

An Alert Officer

Commercial Appeal

6-9-34

When Sheriff Newbill of Dyer County heard rumors that a mob was forming to punish two of his prisoners accused of a grave offense he did not wait to find out whether fact supported the rumor. He put his prisoners in a fast car and soon had them in Shelby County jail.

The Shelby County jail is strong. Those who go into it stay there until the courts release them or send them elsewhere. There is always room in it for those threatened by mobs elsewhere. Shelby County believes in an orderly process of justice. It is glad to play a part in assisting its maintenance elsewhere. Sheriff Newbill is to be commended for taking the step he believed necessary to prevent an untoward incident in his own county.

LYNCHERS THREATEN CAPTURED SLAYER

Negro Spirited Over Mountain to Avoid Mob

KILLED PRISON GUARD

Farmer Captures Youth Who Shot Officer Without Warning and Fled From Reform School at Pikeville

By The Associated Press

Commercial Appeal

PIKESVILLE, Tenn., July 24.—Eugene Penn, 16-year-old negro killer of a reform school guard, was caught in the hills near here late today and rushed toward Brushy Mountain prison for safekeeping as angry crowds threatened lynching.

7-25-34

Memphis, Tenn.

Dr. E. W. Cocke, state commissioner of institutions, who came here today following the slaying of W. E. Townsend, the [illegible]-year-old guard at the state [illegible], said that "we're anxious to get him over the mauntain (to the state prison at Petros) before night or I'm rather afraid they will lynch him."

500 Men In Search

The search for the negro which started yesterday after he had stolen a pistol, crept up on the guard and without apparent provocation shot him through the back of the head had spread into nearby counties today and Dr. Cocke estimated that 500 men were engaged in it.

Penn was caught in a field about four or five miles from the State Training and Agricultural School for Colored Boys, from which he escaped following the shooting.

The capture was made, said Dr. Cocke, by a farmer who had been engaged in the hunt in which sheriff's posses, guards from the school and gaurds with bloodhounds from the state prison at Petros had joined.

The farmer, whose name was not immediately learned, turned the negro over to the state authorities and as news of his capture spread, Dr. Cocke said that the possibility of lynching became imminent with hundreds of armed and angry men milling about the town.

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
July 25, 1934

Negro Is Captured, Spirited to Prison

Petros, Tenn., July 25—(AP)—His asserted grudges against a reform school guard wiped out with a single fatal bullet, Eugene Penn, Negro boy, was held in Brushy Mountain State Prison here today.

Warden Emmett Bradshaw said he would be kept here until popular feeling against him in Bledsoe County quieted sufficiently for him to be returned for trial on a charge of killing W. E. Townsend, 51, guard at the State Training and Agricultural School for Colored Boys at Pikeville, Bledsoe Sounty seat.

The sixteen-year-old negro was taken to the prison last night following his capture late yesterday by R. T. Panther, a farmer, about five miles from the school from which he escaped Monday after the slaying of Townsend. Here Warden Bradshaw said Penn explained the killing by saying the guard had recently caught him taking money from the guard's room and that on an earlier occasion the guard had sought to hit him with a stick. Bradshaw reported him as saying the guard had not liked him and since the money-stealing incident he had been angry with the guard.

Knoxville, Tenn., News-Sentinel
July 26, 1934

Within The Law

QUICK action on the part of officers in the Petros, Tenn., area apparently has saved Tennessee from the shame of another lynching.

If the negro ~~boy~~ involved in the shooting of a reform school guard is guilty, he will pay the penalty.

And that penalty will be just as sure as it would be if he had been strung up by a mob of law-breakers.

Mob law has no place in Tennessee. The state's law enforcement officers can be depended upon to mete out justice within the law.

Columbia, Tenn., Weekly Herald
August 2, 1934

LYNCHING PREVENTED.

One of the chief arguments against mob law is that there is a great chance that an innocent person may be made to suffer. The law guarantees every person the right of a trial by jury. Circumstantial evidence often points to innocent people, and there is no way of telling how many innocent persons have been lynched.

Such a case was prevented near Donelson yesterday when level-headed officers and a right-thinking storekeeper kept back a mob of 300 who were bent on lynching a negro. There had been a diabolical beating administered to an aged woman, and cir- against the negro who was captured.

But the delay gave time for a statement to be given out by the woman saying that her assailant was a white man. The life of an innocent person be made to suffer. The law guaran- was probably saved by the action of officers and citizens who refused to allow a mob to be stampeded into irrevocable action born of the prejudices of the moment.

That incident should be a lesson to all who condone or encourage extralegal proceedings in the punishment of crime.

Those who held in check the mob cannot be too highly praised.

HERALD
Columbia, Tenn.
JUL 28 1934

LYNCHING PREVENTED.

One of the chief arguments against mob law is that there is a great chance that an innocent person may be made to suffer. The law guarantees every person the right of a trial by jury. Circumstantial evidence often points to innocent people, and there is no way of telling how many innocent persons have been lynched.

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TENNESSEE NEGRO IS RESCUED FROM MOB

Confession Reported In Attack On Girl

Post

By United Press.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 20.—E. K. Harris, 22-year-old Shelbyville, Tenn., negro, was safe in Davidson county jail here today after officers saved him from a gathering mob in Bedford county, 50 miles from here, where he was accused of attacking a 14-year-old white girl.

Harris was brought here after he is reported to have signed a confession admitting the attack.

Crowd Threatens Prisoner

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 19 (AP).—A crowd described as "about a couple of hundred people" loaded into automobiles before the city hall tonight to go to Murfreesboro, Tenn., after E. K. Harris, Negro charged with ravishing a 14-year-old white school girl near here today.

The Negro was taken from city jail shortly after his arrest about 7 p.m. and rushed away towards Murfreesboro, where he was to be placed in the Rutherford county jail for safe-keeping.

At Murfreesboro he was turned over to Rutherford county officers, Bill Workman and Richmond Jones, deputies sheriff, who took him to the Davidson county jail at Nashville, reaching there at 9:30 p.m.

TENNESSEE OFFICERS FRUSTRATE LYNCHERS

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 20 (AP)—The threatened lynching of a young negro said by officers to have confessed an attempted attack on a 14-year-old white girl was thwarted by police who rushed the negro to Nashville, Tenn., for safekeeping, and today the aroused citizens were back in their homes.

The Bedford county Sheriff, T. E. Gant, said members of the crowd which gathered when news of the attack spread had gone to their homes late last night and the excitement which prevailed for about three hours had quieted.

LYNCHING PARTY THWARTED BY LAW

News

Negro, Admitting Attack Case, Sent To Nashville For Safekeeping

11-21-34

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn.—(AP)—The threatened lynching of a young Negro said by officers to have confessed to an attempted attack on a 14-year-old white girl was thwarted by police who rushed the Negro to Nashville, Tenn., for safekeeping and Tuesday the aroused citizens were back in their homes.

The Bedford County Sheriff, T. E. Gant, said members of the crowd which gathered when news of the attack spread had gone to their homes late Tuesday night, and the excitement which prevailed for about three hours had quieted.

The assault occurred early Monday afternoon near Stock Valley School. The girl was recovering Tuesday from bruises and lacerations. The Negro, E. K. Harris, was arrested early Monday night and charged with attacking the girl.

He was sent to Murfreesboro, Tenn., as a crowd gathered at the City Hall. There Sheriff W. F. McCrary, of Rutherford County, said he had a signed statement from Harris confessing to an attempted criminal assault and claimed that he released the girl when she resisted him and began to scream.

CROWD TRIES THREE TIMES TO GET NEGRO

Telegraph

Gas, Machine Guns, Rifles and Bayonets Used at Shelbyville, Tenn.

12-20-34

PRISONER IS TAKEN AWAY

Macon, Ga.

Mistrial Is Declared in Case of E. K. Harris, Charged With Assault

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 19 (AP)—An infuriated mob, losing two of its number to soldier gunfire in three vain attempts to take an alleged Negro attacker from the courtroom, tonight burned the old Bedford county courthouse and disorganized groups threatened the Negro populace.

Gov. Hill McAlister ordered out 500 troopers to quell the trouble. The governor said the national guardsmen were being sent because indications were the mob "would burn the whole town."

Two other persons were killed, two were reported dying and several were seriously hurt in the earlier clashes with troopers who used their firearms and bayonets.

Garbed in a soldier's uniform with his face covered by a gas mask, the Negro was spirited away to Nashville and the judge ordered a mistrial just after a jury had been selected.

"We thought," the governor said, "that when we got the Negro away it would be all right but they took vengeance on their own courthouse. It was to prevent any further acts of this kind that I ordered the troops."

Mob Quiet After Fire

The governor said he did not believe further use of force would be necessary but that the guardsmen "will use it if necessary."

Later in the night there were indications that the fury of the mob, which threatened at times to turn into a race riot, had subsided somewhat after the burning of the courthouse.

Angered by the ruse and apparently intent upon showering their wrath on guardsmen and the county officers, the mob allegedly sprinkled the 75-year-old Bedford county courthouse with gasoline and set fire to it. At 9 o'clock Central Standard time tonight the building was a mass of ruins with the mob, estimated between 300 to 500, milling about the square.

An appeal went to Governor Hill McAlister for troops, which had been withdrawn before the fire. He immediately ordered 500 national guardsmen to the scene "to quell disorder."

Innocent Negroes Threatened

Firemen said the mob hindered them in fighting the flames. Dynamite, which had been tossed into the courthouse building during the height of the disturbance during the day exploded tonight, but no one was injured by the blast, which occurred during the height of the fire. The courthouse, valued at $150,000, was built in 1871.

The governor said it would be necessary to mobilize troops from units throughout the state and telephones were brought into use for the purpose of completing the mobilization.

Thwarted today in three bloody efforts to invade Bedford county courthouse and carry off the asserted assailant of a 14-year-old white girl, the mob consisting of some 400 to 500 men, milled through the streets of Shelbyville, roughing any Negro who dared appear and talking about a vengeful excursion into the Negro section.

Trucks Are Burned First

The case was ended at 3 p.m. today when the trial judge, after an hour's recess, declared a mistrial. He dismissed the jury which had been chosen only a short time before. Harris then was taken from court to a waiting automobile disguised as a nationl guardsmen and rushed to Nashville.

Shortly afterward the national guardsmen and officers marched from the blood stained, bullet-scarred courthouse. The angry mob hurled insults and stones as the troops filed by. At the edge of town the militiamen set up an encampment of shelter tents to await possible further action.

Telegraph

With Harris gone and the troops withdrawn from the courthouse, the mob turned its attention first to four abandoned troop trucks. They were turned over and ignited about dusk. Flames shot high and the cars were completely destroyed. Later the courthouse was set fire.

12-20-34

Bayonet Wound Fatal

Groups of men wandered through the streets shooting random shots into the air, hurling threats and imprecations against Negroes and discussing concerted action against the town's Negro quarter.

All the killed and injured were local white men.

The dead:

Raleigh Edwards, 30, housepainter, bayoneted through the stomach.

An unidentified white man.

Dying:

Pat Lawes, reported by his friends to be a relative of the girl involved in the case, shot through the head.

Gilbert Freeman, shot through the lungs and stomach.

Wounded:

Mead Jones, shot in the hand and feet and bayoneted in the feet; condition serious.

Everett Patterson, shot in the leg.

Herschel Neely, minor gunshot wound.

W. M. Clayman, bayonet wound in the side.

James Bledsoe, shot in the feet.

First Attack Driven Back

Other less seriously wounded men were not identified and a few members of the mob and bystanders suffered severely from tear gas.

The first assault on the court house occurred at 11:45 a. m. and an unidentified man was cut on the head by a bayonet.

The guardsmen stood in front of the court house, bayonets drawn, tear gas bombs ready and in extended order, while others of their number manned machine guns at the windows. Fifty yards away, across the court house lawn and street, gathered angry men shouting at the troops and building the spirit for another attack.

At 2:15 p.m. a guard officer waived his arm and summoned the mob in an attempt to address it. The nerves of the troops and mob members were tense as they gathered about him and in a moment violence flared again.

Second Attack is Made

At close quarters, the troops wielded bayonets and hurled tear gas at their attackers. The mob retreated again, leaving behind Edwards, dead of a bayonet wound in his stomach. There were a few minor causalties.

As the angry men once more marshaled their forces across from the courthouse, Col. John R. Stark of Nashville, commanding the troops, turned to Adj. Gen. J. H. Ballew and said, "Don't you think I had better bring them in?"

Ballew nodded and the troops were ordered inside the courthouse to prepare for the next charge which appeared certain to come.

It came at 3 p.m. Shouting and brandishing clubs and pistols, the men ran toward the courthouse.

One man, in the forefront, seized a bench on the porch and crashed it through the glass of the front door. The guardsmen then opened fire. Pat Lawes was shot through the head and fell eight feet from the porch to the concrete walk below.

Negro Is Carried Off

The firing became general, and several men in the mob dropped. Sullenly it retreated for the third time.

A few minutes later a squad of guardsmen rushed out of the courthouse to an automobile and drove away. With them, dressed in a uniform and wearing a gas mask, was Harris. Too late the crowd sensed what had happened, its ire turned towards remaining officers and troops.

Three men carrying a stick of dynamite then made their way to a corner of the courthouse, but for some reason abandoned the apparent plan to blast the building.

The troops, with guns at port arms and ready to fire, marched out of the courthouse shortly afterward, while the mob shouted epithets and threw stones.

THREE SLAIN WHEN TROOPS REPEL CROWD

Many Are Wounded When Militiamen Use Guns Against Attackers

Post

COURTHOUSE STORMED

12-20-34

Attempt Is Made To Lynch Man Accused In Attack On 14-Year-Old Girl

Birmingham, Ala.

BULLETIN

By United Press.

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 19.—National Guardsmen spirited a Negro, accused of criminally attacking a white girl, from the Courthouse here shortly after 3 p.m. today following the death of three men and wounding of several others when the soldiers fired into a mob that made three major charges to gain possession of the prisoner.

It is believed officers were headed toward Nashville with the Negro. He had been held there for the last month since his arrest and was escorted here early today for the trial.

* * *

By United Press.

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 19.—National guardsmen shortly before 3 p.m. today killed three men and wounded several others of a mob which made its third concentrated attack on a courthouse where a Negro was being tried on charges of criminally assaulting a white school girl.

The guardsmen retreated before the last charge of the mob, barricaded all doors to the courthouse and fired machine guns from upper story windows.

The mob continued battering at the lower front entrance, shattered windows, and were reported to be preparing to use dynamite to break open the barricaded doors.

R. O. Edwards, 30, Shelbyville, interior decorator, was dead when he reached the hospital after being wounded in a charge that preceded the last from which the soldiers retreated.

The other men had not been identified and it was not immediately ascertained how many were wounded.

Repulsed shortly after noon by tear gas and bayonets in their first charge, the aroused mob of more than 1000 shouting white men made another attack two hours later.

National guardsmen, stationed about the barricaded courthouse, met the charge with gunfire.

The mob again retreated in face of the gunfire, but did not scatter to any great extent.

The youthful country Negro, E. K. Harris, is charged with assaulting the girl eight miles from here a month ago.

"The situation is grave," guardsmen reported to Gov. Hill McAlister at Nashville.

Officers feared further "serious trouble" in the "nasty situation."

Defense lawyers lost a plea for change of venue and nine jurors, mostly farmers, were selected at 1:40 p.m.

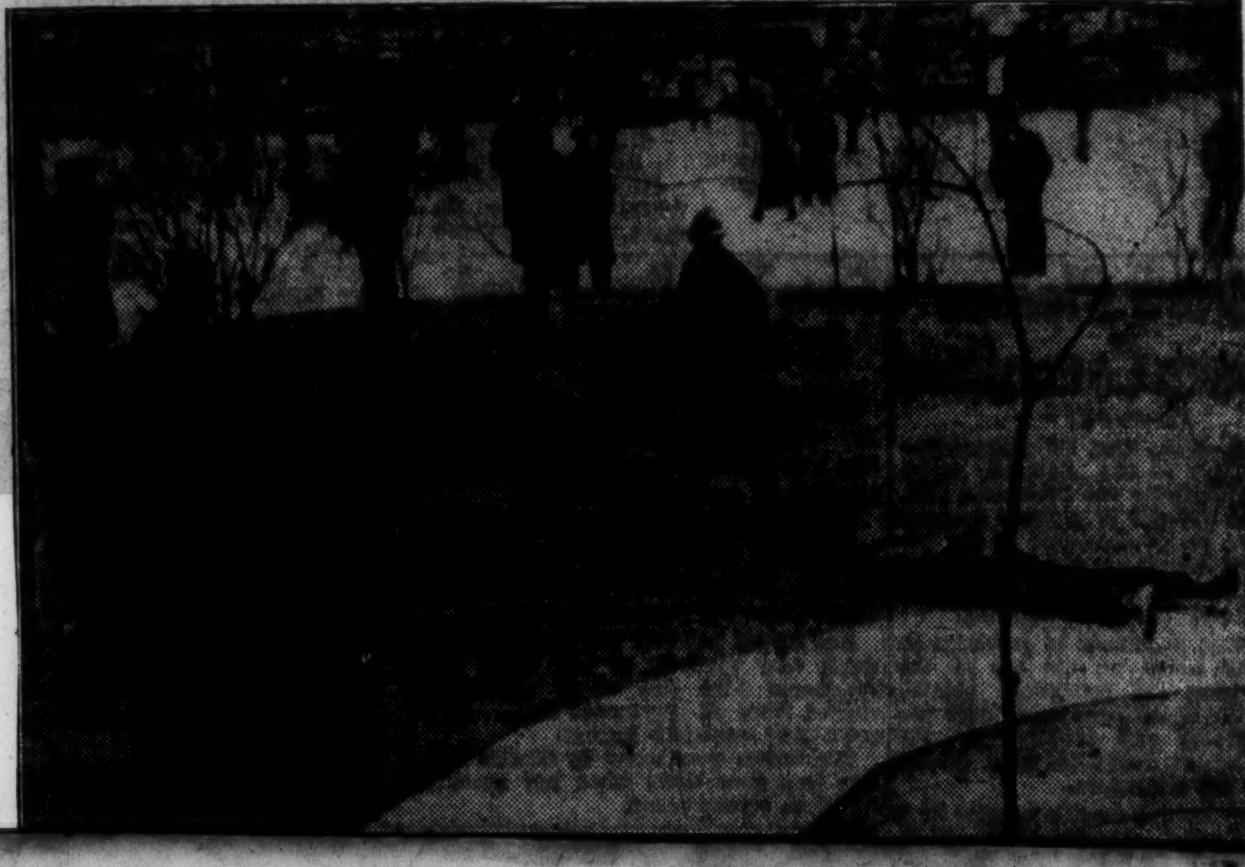
Lynchings-1934
Prevented

Tennessee

4800

Three Die As Guardsmen Repel Mob Storming Courthouse

Advertiser
12-21-34
Montgomery Adv



Three persons were killed, several others were wounded, and the county courthouse was destroyed by fire as an infuriated mob sought to take an alleged negro attacker from the courtroom where he was on trial at Shelbyville, Tenn., Wednesday. The picture at the top shows Tennessee national guardsmen shooting tear gas into the mob as it stormed the courthouse. The negro was spirited away to Nashville, but the mob set fire to the $150,000 courthouse and threatened to burn the jail. The scene at the left bears mute evidence to the fury of the mob. The body of Raleigh Edwards, who was run through the abdomen by a guardsman's bayonet and died within a few minutes, is shown on the ground after the fight. (Associated Press Photos.)

Vigilantes Alert For New Mob

Advertiser

Fear Saturday May Bring More Trouble; Prepared To Meet Armed Force

12-22-34

SHELBYVILLE, TENN., Dec. 21—(AP)—Aroused by reports that Wednesday's mob may form again, vigilantes served grim notice today they would use armed force to quell any further uprising, and 550 national guardsmen were ordered to remain here through tomorrow.

Ed Nance, U. S. commissioner, told a meeting of the vigilante committee that he believed "there will be trouble here Saturday" and urged that militant steps be taken to combat any new outbreak by mobsters.

Montgomery Adv

"If we have to kill some of these fellows, let's just kill them," he said, adding that "if we have to die, let's die."

"There is no use in letting them take our town," he told his fellow vigilantes.

Before the meeting, Adj. Gen. J. H. Ballew and Col. R. H. Bond, commanding the detachment of militia, had expressed the opinion that "the danger of any concerted mob action is definitely past."

Gen. Ballew acceded to the request of the citizens, however, that the soldiers remain through tomorrow, when a holiday throng is expected. Following a telephone conversation with Gov. Hill McAlister, the Adjutant General announced that the guardsmen "will remain here until at least 3 o'clock Sunday morning."

Ballew told the committee that "some members of the mob are still in town" and that he had seen several on the street today, but declared "the mere fact that they are here" was not an indication of trouble.

However, Nance, who said he is "very familiar with the criminal element" of the county, believed trouble would break out tomorrow. He told of information he had received that some mobsters had been in Shelbyville laying plans for a new assault.

Since the mob unsuccessfully stormed the courthouse Wednesday and later burned the structure in retaliation for its defeat, the object of the mobsters' wrath has been pushed into the background of the picture, so rapid have been events subsequent to the original disturbance. He is E. K. Harris, 22-year-old negro, accused of attacking a 14-year-old white girl. Harris is held in the storm-proof jail at Nashville.

The fourth death from volleys fired by gaurdsmen in repulsing an onrushing mob in front of the courthouse Wednesday afternoon occurred this morning. Floyd (Pat) Lawes, 28, a farmer from adjoining Moore County, succumbed to head wounds in the Shelbyville hospital. His wife and other relatives were at his bedside. Arrangements were made for funeral services tomorrow at his home near Charity. Sheriff T. E. Gant, against whom mobsters have made threats of personal violence, was back at his home in the county jail where 30 militiamen guarded him.

He expressed the opinion that if there is any further outbreak it will be tomorrow. While he has seen no definite signs of trouble, the sheriff said "we have a lot of people in town on Saturday and, of course, it's Christmas time and there will be a big crowd."

"There may be some drinking," he added, and said that if Saturday is quiet the crisis likely will be past.

Adjt. Gen. Ballew reported that keeping the guardsmen here was costing the State approximately $5,000 a day.

Vigilantes May Be Organized In Riot-Torn To

Third Man Dies After 4 Of Group That Fired On Him Offer Their Blood

Rioting A Memory

Plans Made To Construct Temporary Quarters For County's Office-Holders

SHELBYVILLE, TENN., Dec. 20.—(AP)—Formation of a vigilante committee to aid in maintaining order in this riot-torn town was proposed late today in a mass meeting of business men.

The plan designed to prevent any further outburst of race hatred even after the withdrawal of the national guard troops now stationed here, came as Shelbyville counted its losses from yesterday's violence, buried one of three men fatally wounded in the fighting and considered housing of county officers left without headquarters by a $150,000-fire, set by the mob, which destroyed the courthouse.

Gilford Freeman, 45, died late today of a wound in the stomach, bringing the death toll to three. Raleigh Edwards, 30, house-painter, and an unidentified man are the other victims. The latter was pronounced dead at county hospital yesterday, but his body was removed before identification.

C. C. Smith, city recorder, said of the vigilante proposal that such an organization "would be to assist the city and county authorities in maintaining peace and order."

Would Bear Arms

"They would serve as an armed body if it should be found necessary after the guardsmen leave," he added, "and would also assist in any other way possible while troops were here."

One of their principal duties while the troops remained would be in providing housing facilities, Smith said. Exact plans of how the organization would be formed were not disclosed but Smith said "it was requested that those who would do so volunteer to serve."

Only a few hours before Freeman's death, physicians found it would be necessary to give him a blood transfusion. His life had been despaired of since he was taken to the hospital early yesterday afternoon, badly wounded.

They issued an appeal for volunteers to give the transfusion, but without immediate response. They went to the national guard officers, here with a detachment of 600 militia, and asked aid. Of the troops now here, 111 were those who held the Bedford County Courthouse against yesterday's mob in the fighting during which Freeman was shot.

43 Offer Blood

Lieut. Col. John R. Stark, of Nashville, guard commander, said tonight 43 of these 111 men volunteered to provide blood for the transfusion. Freeman died before it could be made, however.

Freeman's wife, a son and a daughter-in-law were with him when he died. They planned to take his body to Petersburg, Tenn., 15 miles away, for burial. The hospital gave Freeman's occupation as a machinist.

The frenzy of the mob had apparently abated tonight and the peaceful citizens looked at the black hulk of the courthouse in silence which contrasted strangely with the yelling and shooting and finally the roar of flames that filled the public square last night.

An investigation into the disorders, which began when several hundred men stormed the courthouse entrance in an effort to seize E. K. Harris, negro on trial for an alleged criminal attack on a young white girl, was delayed pending a conference between Judge T. L. Coleman and Prosecutor W. B. Knott. Judge Coleman said he was delaying the conference until certain that "things have quieted down."

The grand jury is in recess until January 21, but the court can call it into session at any time.

Three Charges Made

Three times the mob assaulted the doors of the courthouse. The first time it was repulsed by tear gas bombs. Blood was spilled in the second foray, national guardsmen turning on the attackers with riot guns, tear gas and bayonets. Raleigh Edwards, 30-year-old house painter, fell mortally wounded. He was buried this morning after funeral services at his father's home. Besides his parents, he is survived by his widow and three children.

The other victim was unidentified. He was pronounced dead soon after being received at a hospital, but his body was removed before identification could be established. Indications were that this man had come from another county and that his body had been taken back there by friends. He lost his life during hand-to-hand fighting in the third and final attack. About a score were wounded in all, several seriously.

Six hundred militia men moved into Shelbyville this morning under orders to remain until all danger is passed. Adj. Gen. J. H. Ballew arranged to keep them overnight at least. High school classes were dismissed at noon in order that the building might be used in the afternoon for a mass meeting to survey the entire situation.

New Guardsmen On Duty

The fresh guardsmen replaced three companies that were here from Nashville yesterday as a precaution against efforts to lynch the negro. These companies withdrew from Shelbyville after the spirited fighting ended. The mobsters, sullen because their efforts had been thwarted, set fire to the court house a short time later and held off fire-fighters until the building was doomed. Four National Guard trucks were overturned and burned.

Harris, meanwhile, had been rushed to Nashville in the adjutant general's automobile, wearing a gas mask and other militia regalia, he was led past the threatening crowd which did not discover his identity until too late to overtake the car. The negro remained in jail at Nashville, a mistrial having been declared as a result of the outbreak.

Col. Stark said "every shot that was fired by the guardsmen was fired in self-defense."

"The discipline of the men was absolutely perfect," he declared, "and nobody who has not been through such an experience will ever know the stinging epithets and the abuse which was heaped upon the boys from the time the mob began to form until they broke into the court house and the men were ordered to return the fire of the mob."

In the Fall Creek community, where Harris's alleged victim lives, the events here yesterday were the subject of excited discussion. Groups gathered today to talk over all the details.

Shelbyville went about its affairs quietly and the National Guardsmen spent most of their time in their headquarters. There was no guard duty, except at the headquarters, and the principal activity was the soldiers' marching to a hotel for their meals. General Ballew said there was no thought of declaring martial law.

During the morning, County Judge C. W. Phillips met with the fiscal court to go over plans for a temporary county headquarters, but the conversations did not progress to a discussion of a permanent new building.

A survey showed the damage was confined almost entirely to destruction of the courthouse and the four trucks.

NEW YORK JOURNAL

DEC 21 1934

FOURTH DEATH IN LYNCH RIOT

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 21 (By International News Service)—The death toll in Wednesday's fierce rioting here rose to four today when Pat Lawes, shot in the head as the mob rushed National Guardsmen, died in the hospital. Lawes, about 45, is survived by his wife and two children.

A third man, Guilford Freeman died last night after 45 Guards-men had offered their blood in an effort to save his life.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 21 (By International News Service).—Gov. Hill McAlister this afternoon ordered the 537 National Guardsmen stationed at Shelbyville, demobilized at 3 o'clock Sunday morning. The Governor's order followed a request from a vigilance committee of 100 men at Shelbyville, who stated that they could handle the situation after that

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NEW YORK AMERICAN

DEC 24 1934

OFFICER FLEES LYNCHING MOB

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 2 (US).—With mob spirit still straining toward the breaking point, police increased their watchfulness today as the rancor which led to four deaths and the burning of the court house here refused to subside.

Constable Olin Watson narrowly escaped ambush today at the hands of the lynch-made mob he had helped to ward off in protecting a Negro accused of attacking a white girl.

Watson, answering a rush call for police, motored to a cotton mill a mile from here and was greeted with two bullets that shattered the windshielf of his car.

Unharmed, but with glass scattered over his lap, the constable fled without getting out of his car.

Sheriff Grant said he had "from 200 to 300 men available for riot duty in case an emergency arises."

MEMPHIS, TENN.
PRESS SCIMITAR

DEC 21 1934

A Thwarted Lynching

Sheriff Gant did his duty when he tried to calm the mob at Shelbyville, Tenn.

Judge Coleman did his duty by declaring a mistrial in the case of E. K. Harris, the negro, when the mob surrounded the court house. The mob set fire to the court house.

The Tennessee National Guard did its duty, training its guns upon the charging mob and carrying the prisoner away to safety. The mob overturned and burned the guard's motor trucks.

Shelbyville police did their duty, risking their lives to save the city hall from the torch.

The firemen did their duty, fighting the courthouse flames. The mob cut the fire hose

Governor McAlister did his duty by sending more troops to restore law and order in Shelbyville.

It now remains for Shelbyville prosecutors to punish the vandals and round out a perfect score of official courage in Tennessee—in this one case.

Back of and largely responsible for the bloody Wednesday in Shelbyville were three successful lynchings in Tennessee in the last 18 months. Two white men and one negro were the victims and the latter was lynched in Bedford County, of which Shelbyville is the county seat. He was lynched after a grand jury had refused to indict him. In those three lynchings, Tennessee officers did not do their duty, and because they failed, mob spirit spread in the state.

But on Wednesday, Tennessee authorities demonstrated how a mob should be handled. A few more such salutary performances by local authorities might end cowardly lynchings in this country.

Lynchings-1934
Prevented

Tennessee

4801

Guardsmen Kill Two, Shoot Seven As Mob Fails To Take Negro

COURTHOUSE BURNED

Shelbyville In Hands of Rioters After Troops Withdraw From Town

PRISONER IS REMOVED TO NASHVILLE SAFELY

Accused of Attack On Girl Trial Postponed

BULLETIN

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 19.—Five hundred national guardsmen were ordered here tonight by Governor McAlister, following receipt of word that the courthouse had been burned by a mob that had tried to lynch E. K. Harris, negro on trial for assaulting a school girl. The courthouse was burned to the ground with an estimated loss of $80,000. A citizens' committee telephoned a plea to the governor for martial law.

Commercial Appeal
Dec. 20, 1934

BY HILTON BUTLER
Commercial Appeal Staff Correspondent

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 19.—Angered over the slaying of two of their members by national guardsmen, a mob tried to burn the $80,000 county courthouse here shortly before 8 o'clock tonight.

Leaders rushed into the office of Sheriff Tom Gant and dumped 10 gallons of gasoline. A match was lighted and the interior of the office burst into flames.

The fire appeared for a short time to be coming under control of the Shelbyville fire department. Suddenly flames burst from the second floor. The high ceilinged, two-story old building rapidly became a bonfire.

The courthouse is a large two-wing structure. For a time firemen thought they would be able to save the right wing. But as the roaring fire gained headway this appeared

Riot guns in the hands of Tennessee national guardsmen blazing from the windows of the Bedford County courthouse, earlier today had killed two, left two dying and wounded at least five members of a Shelbyville mob that attempted to lynch E. K. Harris, a negro on trial for assaulting a 14-year-old Bedford County school girl. Failing to lay hands upon the negro, the mob broke up the session of court by stoning the building and by planting of a stick of dynamite against the building with a threat to set it off if the negro was not delivered to them.

A ruse permitted Adjutant General J. H. Ballew to rush the negro safely from the beseiged courthouse. He was dressed in a guardsman's uniform and a tear gas mask covered his face. Angered at the escape of the negro, the mob early tonight took four national guard trucks to a corner of the courthouse square, turned them over and set them on fire. Three were completely destroyed. When the fire department came to the scene members of the armed mob refused to permit them to leave their trucks.

Mistrial Entered

A mistrial was entered in the case by Judge Tom L. Coleman of Lewisburg shortly after the attack of the mob had ended in the fatalities.

"There will be no court here for several days," he said before leaving for Lewisburg. He had previously denied a motion of the defense for a change of venue to Davidson County.

Threats of extreme violence were being shouted by cruising mobs on the Shelbyville streets tonight if an attempt is made to return the negro here tomorrow for the trial.

Four separate attempts were made today by the mob, estimated at more than 500, to break into the courthouse after the negro was brought by the guardsmen back to Shelbyville for trial.

The first three were successfully repulsed by use of tear gas bombs. The somewhat leaderless members of the mob reformed their lines about each half hour. Their fourth attack, coming about 3 o'clock, was about to succeed. They had broken down the barred courthouse doors and were rushing the guardsmen when the riot guns were brought into action against them.

Nine Men Brought Down

In the following few moments, nine men were brought down by the guns. Of seven others wounded, two are reported at the Shelbyville hospital not likely to live through the night.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tenn.

The dead:

Raleigh Edwards, 30, house painter, bayoneted through the stomach.

An unidentified white man.

Dying:

Pat Lawes, reported by his friends to be a relative of the girl involved in the case, shot through the head.

Gilbert Freeman, shot through the lungs and stomach.

Wounded:

Mead Jones, shot in the hand and feet and bayoneted in the feet; condition serious.

Everett Patterson, shot in the leg.

Herschel Neely, minor gunshot wound.

W. M. Clayman, bayonet wound in the side.

James Bledsoe, shot in the feet.

Other less seriously wounded men were not identified and a few members of the mob and bystanders suffered severely from tear gas.

The killing led to the decision of General Ballew to rush the negro immediately from the courthouse.

The mob was on one side, laying dynamite at the edge of the building when the khaki clad and masked negro was rushed through a side door in the center of a bayoneted group. He was in a car and speeding away under protection of an armed squadron of cars before members of the mob realized what had happened.

Truck Abandoned

Their anger took quick and varied forms. One group, headed by a shotgun wielding young man, started for the negro section of Shelbyville. Another chased a driver of a national guard truck down the main street, after having stoned him with bricks from a nearby yard. His abandoned truck was among those later overturned and burned.

With pistols drawn and bayonets fixed, the guardsmen who had not gone in the party with the negro marched down the courthouse steps in a body. Two blocks from the courthouse they halted, sending drivers back for the trucks. Of the six trucks parked by the side of the courthouse, only two were recovered, and both these were damaged by bricks and stones as their unprotected drivers rushed through the lanes formed by the mob.

One driver, caught in the closing lanes, was dragged from his truck, but permitted to escape unscathed. He ran down the street for the main body two blocks away. No attempt was made by the troops to return for forcible seizure of the trucks that had conveyed them and the negro from Nashville to Shelbyville early today. A few minutes later fire had consumed those that were abandoned. The guardsmen pitched temporary camp tonight on Eakin Hill, about a mile and a half from town.

"Let's go to Eakin Hill," was a rising shout tonight among members of the mob.

Machine guns are mounted at vantage points on the hill, however, and no fear is held that mob members will go much closer than shouting distance.

But serious fear is felt by local citizens that a race riot may develop here tonight.

Negroes Attacked

Smaller groups of the mob had already begun pulling negro drivers from trucks or running other negroes down side streets. One mob, with its leaders firing pistols overhead, started down a street in the negro section tonight but changed its mind, came back to town and began turning up remnants of the burned national guard trucks.

Insofar as local officials are concerned, the town is completely out of their control. Armed men, not hesitating to fire their guns on street corners, or to give sudden chase to any negro, were apparently not in a humor to go back to their homes tonight.

Scores of the men, including several boys in their 'teens, who have jumped into leadership roles, are reported to be from the Fall Creek section of Bedford County, where the schoolgirl, daughter of a Bedford farmer, was attacked by the negro in the rear of the schoolhouse last month.

With three other little girls, she was a spectator today to a portion of the violence. At one time, tears streaming down her cheeks, she ran in front of the courthouse alone. Her appearance set the mob into a new fever of activity. She was not in sight when the fourth and fatal onslaught against the courthouse was made, but a short time later she stood and watched the burning of the national guard trucks.

The spark that caused the disorderly mob to flare into frenzied rioters was the arrest by city officers of one of their number for drunkenness. They stormed the city jail to rescue him, then came back to the courthouse lawn and charged for the main entrance. Tear gas repelled them.

This first attack was at noon.

RIOT FEARS HANG OVER CITY AS 100 VIGILANTES ARM

News

Attack On Sheriff's Office Planned, Shelbyville Police Assert

12-23-34

Birmingham, Ala.

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn. — (US-INS)—Fear of uncontrolled riots hung over the mixed Shelbyville population Saturday night as 100 local vigilantes armed, preparing to supplant 550 national guardsmen in maintaining order.

A national guard plane flew over this section until dark to detect any attempted formation of a mob on the farmland outskirts of the city, and also to guarantee safe entry of trucks carrying guns and ammunition for members of the vigilante committee, composed of merchants, bankers and clergymen.

Vigilante leaders expressed belief mob action would not crystallize until the national guardsmen depart at 3 a.m., but confessed fear of an attack on the sheriff's office and jail before the Sabbath dawn by remnants of a lynch-crazy mob of 1,500 who lost four of their number to the law's guns Wednesday while trying to take E. K. Harris, Negro attacker of a 14-year-old white girl.

Twenty other members of the mob, led by John Gibson, father of the girl, were wounded as the rioters burned the $150,000 Bedford County Courthouse. Gibson Saturday voiced a flat threat to lynch Sheriff T. E. Gant and his son, John, after the troops leave.

The sheriff and his son are blamed for bringing the militia here and for aiding in spiriting the Negro to safety in Nashville.

Racial bitterness along the southern tier of the state was intensified by the fatal beating of a white farmer by a Negro Saturday morning near Spring Creek, 60 miles from here.

Police were holding E. G. Tarrance, 75-year-old Negro, who admitted beating and shooting Henry Kety, white farmer, for hauling wood across the Tarrance farm. Kety died in a Lawrenceburg hospital.

Four Negroes were arrested here as police raided 27 illegal liquor places near the public square in an effort to "dry up" the city before the militia decamped.

Pressure was being brought to force the resignation of Sheriff Gant. Vigilante leaders admitted mob action probably would be averted if the sheriff resigned and left town, but they announced their determination to stand behind him as long as he remained in office.

Gant refused to resign, declaring: "The question is whether law-abiding citizens or farmer-Communists will run this city. I'll stay and die rather than quit, as long as the law-abiding citizens of the city are satisfied with my performance of the sheriff's duties."

TWO MEMBERS OF MOB KILLED

Negro Accused Of Attack Is Spirited Away

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn. —(AP)—After at least two men had been slain and an unknown number wounded by bayonets and firearms in the hands of national guardsmen policing the assault trial of E. K. Harris, 22, a Negro, Harris was disguised in a guardsman's uniform and spirited out of the courthouse Wednesday afternoon.

A gas mask covered the face of the Negro, who is charged with attacking a 14-year-old school girl. He was placed immediately in a car with a deputy sheriff and five national guardsmen and was driven away from the courthouse square, where a mob of several hundred had made three rushes on the courthouse.

Shortly afterward, the guardsmen, who had retreated into the building when the crowd made its third advance, marched out carrying their firearms and left the square for an unannounced destination.

The belligerent mob, drawn up across the street following the shooting, cursed and threw stones at the soldiers as they departed.

The guardsmen fired on the crowd when the mob advanced to the courthouse door and threatened to beat it down. Members of the mob estimated that at least three persons had been slain and several others seriously wounded.

The known dead were Pat Lawes, of Chestnut Ridge, and R. O. Edwards, 30, a house painter.

MOB ADVANCE HALTED BY BAYONETS, BULLETS

Witness Tells of Seeing Men Die In Battle

GAS IS INEFFECTUAL

Cold Steel Stops First Attack and Gunfire Checks Second. Leaders Were the First to Go Down

BY HILTON BUTLER

Commercial Appeal Staff Correspondent

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 19. —Through eyes half blinded by tear gas, I saw one man bayonetted to death in the clash here today of law and order versus an angry mob.

I saw another drop with a bullet wound straight in the center of his forehead. He is dying tonight in a Shelbyville hospital—the price a leader pays when a rush of the mob is stopped by riot guns in the hands of national guardsmen.

I saw this first fellow—Raleigh Edwards—rush into the courthouse yard at the head of a slim little group of mobsmen. Fixed bayonets, glistening through the tear gas bombs, stopped his rush. One of them went into his stomach. He was left to die on the ground as his fellow mobsmen retreated.

Permit Meant Nothing

I was running away too. My press permit from Adjutant General Ballew meant nothing in the face of bayonets and riot guns.

The tear gas was still blinding my eyes when the mob began another rush.

This time they wanted to drag the body of Raleigh Edwards, a 30-year-old house painter, away from the ground where he had died at the foot of a soldier. I moved up with them. A sudden change in the wind gave us the rest of the tear gas.

There was a hasty retirement to the clear air of the other side of the block, and then the rest of the hell popped loose. As if by sudden consent, no leader needed, the mob made a rush for the courthouse doors. One young man—he looked big enough and healthy enough to break the barred doors down by his own massive shoulders alone—was first to reach the barricade.

Too Young To Die

And he looked too young to be dying in a cause like that. But he is. I saw him when the bullet struck him in the forehead, and I saw him topple 10 feet down the courthouse steps.

His name was Pat Lawes.

"He is dyjng," the physician at the Bedford County Hospital said tonight. "He can't pull through the night."

Ten feet from me a tall young boy named Herschel Neely kept on running toward the doors, even atfer Pat Lawes had fallen. A bullet stopped Neely. It shattered a bone in his right leg. A half dozen others were falling.

I had enough. I was not imbued with the spirit of the mob, nor was I qualifying myself for a hero. I ran for cover. And no man, half blind as I was, with eyes burning from the biting, blinding gas, ever ran more swiftly or with greater accuracy.

Shelbyville Forms Vigilantes To Halt New Riot Threats

One Hundred Armed Men Will Be Ready When Guardsmen Withdraw Sunday

RENEWAL OF OUTBREAK IS FEARED FOR TODAY

Fourth Victim of Troopers' Guns Dies in Hospital

By The Associated Press

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 21. —Aroused by reports that Wednesday's mob may form again, vigilantes served grim notice today they would use armed force to quell any further uprising, and 550 National Guardsmen were ordered to remain here through tomorrow.

Ed Nance, U. S. commissioner, told a meeting of the vigilante committee that he believed "there will be trouble here Saturday" and urged that militant steps be taken to combat any new outbreak by mobsters.

Commercial Appeal
12-22-37
Memphis Tenn

"Kill If We Must"

"If we have to kill some of these fellows, let's just kill them," he said, adding that "if we have to die, let's die."

"There is no use in letting them take our town," he told his fellow vigilantes.

The committee decided to appoint 10 leaders to command groups of eight armed men each "for the purpose of maintaining law and order, protecting property and co-operating with the sheriff and police."

Before the meeting, Adj. Gen. J. H. Ballew and Col. R. H. Bond, commanding the detachment of militia, had expressed the opinion that "the danger of any concerted mob action is definitely past."

General Ballew acceded to the request of the citizens, however, that the soldiers remain through tomorrow, when a holiday throng is expected. Following a telephone conversation with Governor Hill McAlister, the adjutant general announced that the guardsmen "will remain here until at least 3 o'clock Sunday morning."

Ballew told the committee that "some members of the mob are still in town," and that he had seen several on the street today, but declared "the mere fact that they are here" was not an indication of trouble.

Trouble Expected

However, Nance, who said he is "very familiar with the criminal element" of the county, believed trouble would break out tomorrow. He told of information he had received that some mobsters had been in Shelbyville laying plans for a new assault.

Since the mob unsuccessfully stormed the courthouse Wednesday and later burned the structure in retaliation for its defeat, the object of the mobsters' wrath has been pushed into the background of the picture, so rapid have been events subsequent to the original disturbance. He is E. K. Harris, 22-year-old negro, accused of attacking a 14-year-old school girl. Harris is held in the stormproof jail at Nashville.

The fourth death from volleys fired by guardsmen in repulsing an onrushing mob in front of the courthouse Wednesday afternoon occurred this morning. Floyd (Pat) Lawes, 28, a farmer from adjoining Moore County, succumbed to head wounds in the Shelbyville Hospital. His wife and other relatives were at his bedside. Arrangements were made for funeral services tomorrow at his home near Charity.

Sheriff T. E. Gant, against whom mobsters have made threats of personal violence, was back at his home in the county jail where 30 militiamen guarded him.

Fears Trouble Today

He expressed the opinion that if there is any further outbreak it will be tomorrow. While he has seen no definite signs of trouble, the sheriff said "We have a lot of people in town on Saturday and, of course, it's Christmas time and there will be a big crowd."

"There may be some drinking," he added, and said that if Saturday is quiet the crisis likely will be past.

Adjutant General Ballew reported that keeping the guardsmen here is costing the state approximately $5,000 a day.

Colonel Bond last night announced an investigation into destruction of guardsmen's trucks and described it as preliminary to action that he believed would probably follow in either a military court or a federal district court.

"Those trucks were federal property issued to the state of Tennessee," he said, "and the state is responsible to the government for them." He said Department of Justice agents had not yet been called into the case and that the report to be made of the present inquiry would go to Adj. Gen. J. H. Ballew at Nashville.

For the most part troops and citizens alike moved peaceably about their affairs. Once the troops were jeered as they filed into a restaurant but the demonstration developed no further.

Late last night there was a flurry of alarm as fire broke out in the courthouse ruins. Clanging of the fire bell drew a crowd of curious, but the blaze, a flareup of smouldering debris, was quickly put down.

Texas.

4794

Lynchings-1934
Prevented

Negro Admits Ax Killing Implicating Two Others

Advertiser

1-2-34

Montgomery, Ala.

ANGLETON, TEXAS, Jan. 1.—(AP)—Johnny Dade, 21-year-old negro, was removed from the Brazoria County Jail here as a precautionary measure today after Sheriff Jimmy Martin said he had confessed to the [illegible] slaying Christmas eve of [illegible] Chapman, [illegible] Alvin recluse.

Martin would not say where he took Dade and another negro was held for questioning in connection with the slaying.

Mob Threatens Bride's Attacker

Advertiser

8-27-34

Youthful Pair Kidnaped, Stripped, And Robbed Of Car By Ex-Convict

Montgomery, Ala.

TYLER, TEXAS, Aug. 26.—(AP)—Threatened mob violence caused officers today to rush from the jail here to an undisclosed city a prisoner accused of kidnaping Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell Herring and criminally attacking Mrs. Herring, a bride of a few weeks. The Herrings were robbed and their automobile stolen.

The suspect, identified by police as a Louisiana ex-convict, gave the name of J. D. Willis, 19. He was captured at Palestine and identified as the attacker, police said.

Herring and his wife said they were parked at a cold drink stand last night when a man approached, threatened them with a gun and forced them to drive to a wooded area.

There, police were told, he stripped Herring of all of his clothing except his underwear, tied him to a tree and forced Mrs. Herring to disrobe, slapping her several times when she refused. She said he attacked her, then took the clothing of both herself and her husband and fled in the Herring automobile, after tying her to a tree with wire. Herring tugged futilely at his bonds as he heard his wife's cries.

Mrs. Herring said the robber took her diamond engagement ring, but she saved her wedding ring by hiding it in her mouth.

When the suspect was arrested in Palestine today, officers reported they found the engagement ring, a quantity of money and other valuables in the stolen car. He denied attacking Mrs. Herring.

About two hours after the attack, Mrs. Herring freed herself and untied her husband. They borrowed clothing at a farm house and came to Tyler.

Police said Willis was convicted in Louisiana on a charge of robbing a New Orleans bank and was given a sentence of 5 to 10 years. He served part of his sentence and was pardoned. He gave his age as 19 and said he had a wife and two sons living at Chandler, near Tyler.

EX-CONVICT ARRESTED FOR ATTACKING BRIDE

Constitution

8-27-34

TYLER, Texas, Aug. 26.—(AP)—Threatened mob violence caused officers today to rush from the jail here to an undisclosed city a prisoner accused of kidnaping Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell Herring and criminally attacking Mrs. Herring, a bride of a few weeks. The Herrings were robbed and their automobile stolen.

The suspect, identified by police as a Louisiana ex-convict, gave the name of J. D. Willis, 19, was captured today at Palestine and identified as the attacker, police said.

Herring and his wife said they were parked at a cold drink stand last night when a man approached, threatened them with a gun and forced them to drive to a wooded area.

There, police were told, he stripped Herring of all of his clothing except his underwear, tied him to a tree and forced Mrs. Herring to disrobe, slapping her several times when she refused. She said he attacked her, then took the clothing of both herself and her husband and fled in the Herring automobile, after tying her to a tree with wire. Herring tugged futilely at his bonds as he heard his wife's cries.

Atlanta, Ga.

Mrs. Herring said the robber took her diamond engagement ring but she saved her wedding ring by hiding it in her mouth.

When the suspect was arrested in Palestine today, officers reported they found the engagement ring, a quantity of money and other valuables in the stolen car. He denied attacking Mrs. Herring.

About two hours after the attack Mrs. Herring freed herself and untied her husband. They borrowed clothing at a farm house and came to Tyler.

BRONX HOME NEWS

AUG 27 1934

Texas Officers Thwart Lynch Mob

To evade a lynch mob, police yesterday rushed J. D. Willis, 19, a Louisiana ex-convict, from the Tyler, Tex., jail. Willis was accused of robbing and kidnaping Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell Herring and attacking Mrs. Herring, a bride of a few weeks. The couple reported that the youth stripped them of their clothing, left them tied to trees and fled with their automobile.

Lynchings-1934
Prevented.
6

Texas.

4795

Given a Medal for Halting Lynchers

10-20-34

MARSHALL, Tex., Oct. 19.—Texas, which has been disgraced by 391 lynchings since 1889, has at least one sheriff who knows how to handle mobs. He is John C. Sanders of Marshall, sheriff of Harrison county, who has just been nominated for his 13th two-year term.

In 1925 when a mob assembled around the Harrison county jail intent on lynching two Race men suspected of murdering two white men. Sheriff Sanders promptly mobilized deputies, searched the mobsters, took their weapons and jailed a number of them. The other quickly left town. Sheriff Sanders kept the men in jail until the next morning when he released them after a lecture. For this act he was awarded a bronze medal by the Interracial Commission. He has held office for twenty-four years.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People points to Sheriff Sanders as an example for other southern sheriffs to follow. For years it has been insisting on removal of sheriffs who fail to protect prisoners from mobs.

Prosecutor Appeals to Honor of 50 Attacking Jail

BEAUMONT, Tex., Oct. 11 (AP).—Using only oratory for weapons, the Sheriff and the District Attorney dispersed a mob of fifty persons which stormed the county jail in an attempt to seize Jack Jackson, a Negro, last night.

As the mob approached the jail door with a battering ram, District Attorney Clyde E. Smith met the men and appealed to their honor that the law take its proper course.

Sheriff L. V. Hightower then told the mob bluntly: "You're not going to bother this negro."

The mob dispersed. The Negro is accused of slaying a farmer.

NEW YORK SUN

OCT 11 1934

Texas Oratory Routs Mob Bent on Lynching

BEAUMONT, Tex., Oct. 11 (A. P.).—Using only oratory for weapons, the sheriff and the district attorney dispersed a mob of fifty which stormed the county jail in an attempt to seize Jack Jackson, a Negro, last night.

As the mob approached the jail door with a battering ram District Attorney Clyde E. Smith met the men and appealed to their honor to let the law take its proper course.

Sheriff L. V. Hightower then told them bluntly: "You're not going to bother this Negro."

The mob dispersed.

Jackson is held as a suspect in the slaying of J. J. Andress, Devers, Tax.. farmer.

ORATORY OF OFFICERS DISPERSES MOB OF 50

Commercial Appeal

Sheriff and District Attorney Protect Texas Negro

10-12-34

BEAUMONT, Texas, Oct. 11.—(AP)—Using only oratory for weapons, the sheriff and the district attorney dispersed a mob of 50 persons which stormed the county jail in an attempt to seize Jack Jackson, a negro, last night.

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Memphis,

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Jackson is held as a suspect in the slaying of J. J. Andress, Devers, Texas, farmer.

New York Evening Post

OCT 11 1934

ORATORY DISPERSES TEXAS LYNCH MOB

DALLAS, TEX.
TIMES HERALD

OCT 13 1934

LYNCHING AVERTED

AN OBJECT LESSON to other county officials in Texas was offered in Liberty county Wednesday when a district attorney and a sheriff prevented the lynching of a negro.

The negro had been accused of the brutal murder of a well known farmer and feeling ran high.

Soon a mob gathered at the jail. Some of the leaders seized a pole to be used as a ram in battering down a jail door.

Then District Attorney Clyde E. Smith, recent candidate for attorney general, addressed the mob, pleading for a sporting chance to try the black His eloquence began to make an impression. It was supplemented by the blunt statement of Sheriff L. V. Hightower that he would not surrender the negro.

Soon the mob began to disperse. In a little while all had gone and a lynching had been prevented by two officers who knew their duty and were willing to run the risk of the displeasure of their constituents to perform it.

There have been too many lynchings in the South. Doubtless some innocent persons have died at the end of a rope in the hands of well meaning but possibly misguided citizens.

Mob spirit is easily aroused. On rare occasions it has served good purpose, but more often has done more harm than good.

But in Texas today there is no excuse for not permitting the law to take its course. In the case referred to if the accused man is guilty he will be speedily brought to punishment.

The officials who prevented the lynching are to be commended and other officials would do well to follow their example if the occasion for such action arises.

Lynchings- 1934
Prevented

Virginia

4796

New York American

JAN 11 1934

Officers Hide Negro, Fearing Lynchers

NORFOLK, Va., Jan. 10 (AP).—James Green, 24, Negro, was being held at an unannounced point in North Carolina today by officers who said he had confessed assaulting a white man near Greenville Sunday and a criminal attack on his girl companion.

Arrested by Sheriff Whitehurst near Greenville yesterday, Green is said to have confessed and was spirited away by officers to prevent mob violence.

CONFESSED SLAYER OF TWO GIRLS HELD

Post

Giant Negro Saved From Mob In Virginia

11-20-34

By United Press.

RICHMOND, Va., Nov. 20.—Richmond's stout jail, more than 200 miles from the scene of the brutal crime, today, offered refuge for a giant negro laborer, confessed slayer of two Clifton Forge sisters, from a mob which burned his house to the ground last night.

Philip Jones, 2[illegible], with three other negroes, first was taken to Roanoke and from there he was brought here.

Officers left Roanoke with the negroes late yesterday, under sealed orders, not knowing until they were two miles from Richmond where they were headed.

Bodies of the two girls, Alice B. Hill 13, and Ellen, nine, were found near Jones' farm near Clifton Forge yesterday. They had been missing from home since Sunday morning.

Jones admitted beating them to death with the stock of a shotgun. Alice's hands were tied together, and she was reported to have been criminally assaulted.

Late last night after a check-up had shown all apparently quiet at Clifton Forge, someone slipped past a guard at the Jones' tenant farm and set fire to the house.

VIRGINIA SAVES 4 FROM MOB IN QUICK MOVES!!

Philip Jones, Who Admitted Killing Girls

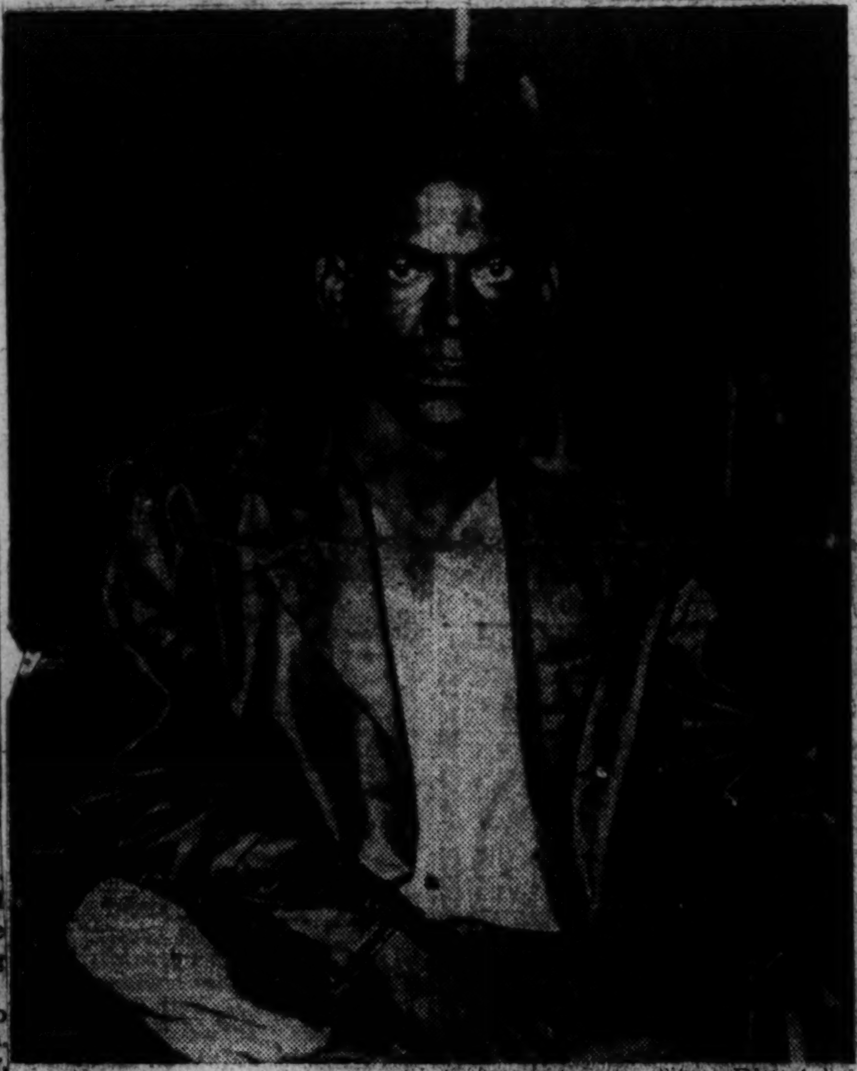

Photo Courtesy Times-Dispatch.

Planet 11-24-34 Richmond

CLIFTON FORGE, VA., November 19—This little Virgginia town is vibrating with a mixed emotion of shock and anger, the result of a vicious crime committed near here Sunday. Philip Jones, a 25-year-old married man is under arrest charged with the attack and murder upon two little white girls, Alice Hill, 13, and her sister, Ellen, 7. Arrested with hi mare thre others: Mrs. Nannie Jones, 19, his wife; John Pryor, 3[illegible], a farmhand, and Arthur Smith, Jr., 24, a former medical student at Fisket University. These four were rushed to Roanoke for safe keeping. It is alleged that Jones killed the two girls, after ravishing the older one, on a lonely road near his home. It is not generally belived that the other three had any connection with the crime.

Jones Makes Full Confession.

Monday afternoon Jones and the three prisoness were rushed to the Henrico County jail in Richmond, after Jones was alleged to have made a confession that he killed the children, after playfully "jumping at them from the bushes." He said he feared they would tell their father and that he would be killed for his action, and killed them out of this apprehension for his own safety.

Phillip Jones was received at the Henrico County jail Monday night by Sheriff T. Wilson Seay. Jones made a second confession in which he denied that his wife and the other two men participated in the crime. He totally absolved them from any complisity in the crime. He maintained he did not assault the older girl, but admitted he killed both of them.

"I want to tell the truth," he told jail officials. They brought him out of his cell and he told the following story:

He had known Alice and Ellen Hill for more than six months. They knew him well. Sunday afternoon, the day of the crime, he had takes one drink. He had gone to Clifton Forge. From there Smith, the taxi-man, had dirven him back to his home, where he remained but a few minutes, then returned to town. Again Smith drove him half way home, leaving him on the side of the road. Jones had his gun, a shotgun, with him.

"I could see the gilrs coming a long way off," he said. "I hid behind a clump of bushes—Ithought it would scare them. The devil got into me, I guess.

Jumped at Girls.

"The girls came along and I jumped out from behind the bushes—and I scared them. Both the girls jumped and screamed.

"Alice turned to me and said: 'I'm going to tell my father—he'll come back and kill you for this."

"I said to her: 'No you ain't gonna call your afther."

"She said: 'Yes, I am," and she started to run away. I grabbed her; then I grabbed the other girl. I held them and tied them both together, so they couldn't run away. They were talking all the time to me—but I forget what they said.

"Then I hit the little girl on the head with the gun-but. She dropped down; and Alice put her head' down and put her hand over her face and then I hit her too. Both of them dropped on the ground and then I hit Alice again with the gun.

Threw Gun Away.

"I don't know whether they were dead or not when I left them, but I knew they were going to die.

"When I hit Alice the last time I threw the gun over into a pile of leaves. Then a minute afterward, I thought I had better get it, and I went over and started to pick it up.

"As I reached down the trigger caught in something and the gun went off, shooting me through the leg.

"Then I went home—and when I got home I told my wife what I had done.

Planet 11-24-34 Richmond, Va.

"And then Pryor came along and they took me to a doctor in Clifton Forge and then to the hospital."

"You want to say now, voluntarily and of your own free will, that you did this thing all by yourself—and that no one else did it, or had any part in it?" Sheriff Seay asked him.

Admits Lie.

"Yes," he said. "I was all alone. I did it by myself. All by myself. I want to tell the truth—I know I'm never going back home again; I know I'm going to the electric chair. When I said before that Smith had helped me, I lied."

Tuesday afternoon Phillip Jones made another confession, in which he acknowledged that he violated the older girl before he killed her. It is tho'[illegible] that Allegheny County offici

will drop the charges again Mrs. Jones, Arthur Smith a John Pryor. As an afterma of the crime, a mob burned the home of the Jones' Monday night, but it appears that n further violnece will be attempted. Many think that Jones

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
November 26, 1934

Lynching Averted

A CRIME incredible in its brutality was committed near Clifton Forge, Va., last week. A Negro murdered two little girls, and criminally assaulted the eldest. "The devil got into me," said the Negro.

It is a crime which deserves death. A mob formed, burned the Negro's cabin and advanced on the jail. By skillful work, the authorities spirited the Negro away and carried him to Richmond. A lynching was averted, and the brutal murderer will be tried. Although the provocation was terrible, Virginia upheld the majesty of the law.

In such cases as these, the South is beginning to realize that lynching only aggravates crime.

A similar case occured in Middle Tennessee recently, and the Negro was safely lodged in the Murfreesboro jail for trial. Writing on the psychology of lynching, E. W. Carmack in the Murfreesboro Daily *News Journal* said:

"It is not true that the majority of people in the South approve or, even are indifferent to these bloodlusts and murderous orgies. The pity is that so many are indifferent, so many are undecided, so many, with an eye cocked upon the cash register, political position, or physical security, are prudent.

"The mobs are composed, generally, of the hysteric, barbarous, excitement-maddened child-minds of the community, led, as a rule, by cruel, moronic, vainglorious, sometimes fearless men. These leaders, finding their instincts for leadership inhibited in a partially civilized, semi-rationalized world, where brain has long since wrested the management from brawn, suddenly find an opening for their languishing self-expression. The rest are simply children. The roar of a German police-dog would send them scampering. They are weak-minded, inebriate children, rioting in a sudden, new, incomprehensible freedom and importance. They will have something to brag of. They will be distinguished for a week. They will be filled with the expansion of a dark and guarded 'open secret.' Their lives will become mysterious, awesome. Then, too, they have heard hard, ringing heroics shouted out to them, and their choler has been stirred and to their mind's eye has been presented terrible, pity-evoking scenes, and they are assured there is no possible defense of the crime. And so, all ideas of orderly government, of justice and the possibility of their victim's innocence are sunk in the maelstrom of their emotions."

It is a clear definition of mob psychology. There have been an alarming number of lynchings in the South this year. But a number of others have been prevented by courageous officers of the law.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
November 21, 1934

In Sympathy and Respect

No more horrid crime has been committed in the South than that which occurred near Clifton Forge, Va., on Monday when a Negro man brutally murdered two little white girls after criminally assaulting the elder of the two. The crime was horrid beyond most such crimes which arouse the bitterness which results too often in lynching. For such a criminal there is no room for any mercy under our laws or any form of social common sense. Society will only be served by eliminating such a fiend from a world in which little children have a right to be secure.

But in Virginia even in the face of such terrific provocation to the indignation that kills out of hand, the law remained supreme. The laws and the officers of the law protected the prisoner in order that the law may take its course. It is a law which can swiftly and adequately deal with such a creature as this confessed beast. It is armed to cut him out like a cancer from the life he endangers.

There is never any excuse for adding crime to crime. Lynching injures the law upon which law-abiding men and women must depend for security, not the criminal certainly fated to death under the law. By guarding both the dignity of its judicial system and ordering quick trial for the criminal in order that the law may be quickly evenged for his brutal crime, Virginia gives example to other Southern States. There is never any need of lynching in a civilized Commonwealth. Lynching may tear down the law in quick revenge but neither men in a mob nor men alone can tear down the law without weakening the defenses which are erected to keep us all secure.

GREENSBORO, N. C.
RECORD
NOV 26 1934

A Virginia Murder Case.

Philip Jones, negro, in jail at Richmond, Va., awaiting trial for the murder of two little white girls near Clifton Forge, has confessed his guilt, and his story is corroborated by his wife's testimony. He admits criminally attacking the older of the two girls before clubbing both of them to death with the butt of his gun. The crime, even taking the word of its perpetrator for it, is one of the most bestial in the history of Virginia.

It is reported that a Richmond lawyer is to be employed, at the request of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, to appear for Jones. As to this, the Roanoke Times, which is a liberal and broad-minded newspaper and one which would strenuously object to racial differences standing in the way of justice, says: "Beyond seeing that the man (Jones) is accorded his legal rights, the N. A. A. C. P. will do well to keep out of this case. It is not going to help the colored people one bit for any attempt to be made to interpose legal obstacles in the path of swift and summary justice."

The Times further adds: "We are persuaded that the leaders of the colored race in Virginia have not the slightest desire that Jones shall escape the consequences of his act. They will rightly deplore any step by the N. A. A. C. P., which may have even the appearance of attempting to stand between Philip Jones and inexorable justice."

We are convinced that the Times has entirely the right view, and that it expresses the majority sentiment of both races in its state. The defendant has confessed his guilt; and the confession is even corroborated. The law should take its course. Virginia's laws are equitable and fair. The state, no doubt, will, as a matter of form, appoint counsel to represent Jones. In our opinion, if the N. A. A. C. P. enters into this case it will be of no help to the defendant and that it will only make trouble for itself and for the people of Virginia, both white and black. If the N. A. A. C. P. is wise it will keep out of the Jones case. Only the Higher Power can help and save him now.

LYNCHBURG, VA.
NEWS
NOV 23 1934

IN SYMPATHY AND RESPECT
(Raleigh News and Observer)

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Columbia, S. C. Record
November 28, 1934

Doing Their Duty.

Monday night attempts were made in Virginia and in South Carolina to lynch two negroes.

At Clifton Forge, Va., a crowd of 700 set fire to the house in which Phillip Jones, 25-year-old negro, who had confessed to the murder of two white girls, lived.

At Darlington a group of men wearing masks overpowered the jailor, seized his keys and made a search through the jail for Jim Cooper, a negro accused of killing Rupert Rogers, a white man.

In Virginia the four negroes, three of them absolved now of blame in the killing, had been moved from the Clifton Forge jail to Roanoke and thence to Richmond where they are now being safely held.

At Darlington Sheriff J. H. Coker some hours before the mob of 50 reached the jail had already moved his prisoner, who is now at the state penitentiary for safe-keeping.

It is not always possible for officers of the law to prevent the formation of mobs and a mob, willing to risk the lives of its own members, can even upon occasion overcome the determined resistance of outnumbered law enforcement forces. But these two sheriffs of Virginia and South Carolina have demonstrated that any officer of the law, intent upon preventing a lynching, can at least safeguard his prisoners by out-thinking the mob and eliminating the opportunity for lynching.

Lynchings-1934
Prevented

Virginia.

4797

DISPATCH
Richmond, Va.
NOV 23 1934

A Wise Precaution

IT IS gratifying news that the prosecuting officers of Clifton Forge and Alleghany County will ask JUDGE HADEN to grant a change of venue for the trial of PHILIP JONES, who has confessed the slaying of two small girls under peculiarly revolting circumstances. Certainly their request should be granted.

Nothing is to be gained through trial of the man in Clifton Forge, whereas there is grave danger that his presence near the scene of his terrible crime would be a strong stimulus to mass action in that area. There is every reason to try him somewhere else.

Certainly if he is returned to the scene of the murder, every protection of the law must be thrown about him. It will be GOVERNOR PERRY's responsibility to see that no possibility exists for interference by mobsters with the orderly processes of justice.

GOVERNOR POLLARD's excellent precautionary measures at the trial of GEORGE CRAWFORD in Leesburg about a year ago served to illustrate the value of wise co-operation between the State and local authorities in such cases. State motor vehicle police were mobilized for the protection of CRAWFORD, and if there was any intention on anybody's part to organize a lynching, the Governor's move effectively forestalled such action.

It is not probable, we believe, that JONES will be returned to Clifton Forge for trial. In all likelihood, he will remain in the Henrico jail and be tried in Richmond. In that event, there is small probability of any trouble. But if he should be tried at Clifton Forge or at any point within motoring distance of it, the most scrupulous vigilance will be necessary.

We are confident that GOVERNOR PERRY is aware of the exigencies of the situation, and that he will be alert to provide any protection deemed necessary to the proper functioning of the judicial process.

Covington Is Stirred Over Jones Trial

J. Guide

County and City Officials Seek Venue Change

12-8-34

NAACP OUT OF CASE

Norfolk, Va.

Trial Postponed To Dec. 12; Court Names Defense

(Another story, page 11)

COVINGTON—Fear that riots, other violence, and possibly lynchings might attend the trial of Phillip Jones, his wife, and two associates for the murder of two white girls near Clifton Forge on November 18, if tried here as planned, moved several influential bodies this week to petition Judge Benjamin Haden for a change of venue.

Meanwhile, simultaneous with Judge Haden's appointment of T. Warren Messick, white, of Roanoke, as defense counsel, Messick announced the postponement of the trial, originally scheduled for December 10, to December 12.

A conference between Judge Haden and C. C. Collins, commonwealth's attorney for Alleghany County, planned for Thursday of this week, is expected to have an important bearing on the case. The conference, it is believed, is an outcome of the requests for a change in venue.

Several Protests Filed

Protests against holding the trial here have been filed by representatives of the Covington Town Council, the Alleghany County Chamber of Commerce, the Alleghany Board of Supervisors, and finally, on Wednesday, by the local Ministerial Union.

The Union in its request for a change said: "In view of the possibility of public disorder, if the murder trial of four Negroes scheduled for December 10 in Covington is held in this town, we wish to urge strongly that change of venue be ordered if at all possible and that the prisoners not be brought here." Ten Protestant pastors here comprise the union.

Since the prisoners were taken to the Henrico County jail in Richmond for safekeeping shortly after the arrests, it has been the general feeling that change in venue would be wise. Richmond has been suggested on several occasions as the best place for the trial.

NAACP Drops Case

Those in custody now at the Henrico County Jail are Phillip Jones, alleged confessed murderer of the four girls; his wife, Mrs. Nannie Jones, Arthur Smith, and John Pryor. All were indicted last week on the murder count.

Jones has repeatedly sought to absolve the others by assuming full responsibility for the crime which he readily admits and attributes to "the devil in me."

Atty. Messick let it be known that on December 12 Judge Haden will hear motions, but refused to elaborate further as to what the motions would be.

Among the recent developments in the case was the announcement by the Richmond branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People last week that it would not undertake the defense of Jones. This statement came following an investigation by Atty C. Byron Hopkins, who was asked by the branch to look into the matter. It was believed for a while that the NAACP would defend the prisoners.

DISPATCH
Richmond, Va.
DEC 10 1934

Assure Jones's Safety

FORTUNATELY, it appears that under a section of the Virginia Code governing cases where accused persons have not been arraigned, it is not necessary for them to appear personally when certain court motions are made. Later, when the trial opens, they must be present at every stage of the proceedings.

We have in mind the case of PHILLIP JONES, the Negro who is accused of murdering two little girls and attempting criminal assault on one of them. JONES is now held for safe-keeping in the Henrico County Jail. Counsel for the man is expected to make a motion in court at Covington on Wednesday for a change of venue—for removal of the case to another jurisdiction. At the time of the crime, feeling against JONES in the community ran very high. His house was burned, and but for quick, efficient work on the part of officers in whisking the Negro to Roanoke and on to Richmond, he might have suffered at the hands of a mob.

GOVERNOR PERRY has asked the Attorney-General for a ruling in the matter of whether JONES must be present in court Wednesday when the motion for a change of venue is argued. MR. STAPLE's opinion has not yet been rendered, but in legal circles it is expected that he will hold that since the man has not been arraigned, there is no necessity for him to be in Covington.

If, however, this is not his ruling, every precaution should be taken by the Governor against mob violence when JONES is removed from Richmond to Covington. Reports are that the feeling against him has subsided somewhat and that the danger to his life would not be so great now as it was at the time the crime was committed. This may be true, but the authorities could afford to take no chances. The crime with which the Negro is accused, and to which he is said to have confessed, is one of unusual hideousness, and indignation against him is likely to flare up at any moment.

For the past several years Virginia has been free of the blot of lynching. The people of this State, or the majority of them, are unalterably opposed to the execution of criminals by the mob method, and have reflected that opposition in a law under which the Attorney-General may command unlimited resources in the prosecution of persons suspected of participation in mobbery. This record must be maintained. It makes no difference how guilty a man is, the law guarantees him his day in court. This right must be safeguarded at all costs.

NORFOLK, VA.
VIRGINIAN PILOT

DEC 20 1934

The State's Duty In the Jones Case

The change of venue which Judge Benjamin Haden has granted for Philip Jones, the Clifton Forge Negro charged, with three other Negroes, with murdering Alice and Ellen Hill, young white girls of Clifton Forge, is accompanied by a review of the evidence submitted at the hearing on the motion. As reported by the Associated Press, Judge Haden appears to lay considerable emphasis upon evidence submitted to substantiate the belief that the danger of mob action has been exaggerated. He calls attention, for instance, to a statement by the Mayor of Clifton Forge, who is also head of the fire department, that the crowd about the city hall soon after the crime, was probably drawn there by a fire alarm and not by interest in the crime. The same official circulated through the crowd and heard only one "incendiary" remark—and that from an intoxicated man who was sent home. Other witnesses differed as to whether a change of venue was necessary or even advisable.

The result of this hearing is the order setting the trial for Fincastle in Botetourt County instead of Covington in Alleghany County, where the trial would normally be held. The two counties adjoin, and the distance between Covington and Fincastle is about 20 miles. Covington is only a few miles from Clifton Forge. All are within easy traveling distance by automobile—a matter of minutes for those in a hurry. Fincastle, moreover, is a much smaller community than Covington, having only 517 inhabitants against Covington's 6,536, according to the 1930 census.

In the light of these facts, it is extremely difficult either to understand or to justify Judge Haden's selection. The issue before him was whether the danger of mob action required removal of the trial from Covington; and if so, where the trial should be held. On the first issue, he has ruled in the affirmative. But on the second issue he has chosen a town which is so close to Covington that it would not be difficult to reach if a mob was anxious to reach it, and is so small that it can hardly have at its own disposal the means of adequately protecting the prisoner.

Our own view has been that the proper place for the trial is Roanoke—not so far away as to present serious inconvenience, yet far enough away to discourage a mob from journeying thither, and large enough and well enough equipped and policed to remove virtually all danger. Roanoke having been ruled out and Fincastle having been chosen, the State now has the serious responsibility of seeing that the latter town's disadvantages are made up for by a degree of protection much greater than would be required in a more populous community or one farther removed from the scene of the crime. There should be no mistake on this point. Clifton Forge officials may be confident that no mob threat exists, but the remainder of the State knows that the crime with which

Jones is charged was of a type to arouse deep feeling, and it knows too that a mob felt bitterly enough toward Jones to burn down his home. Perhaps the early excitement has died down but the State can afford to take no chances. The [illegible] of Fincastle should be compensated for by protective measures which will leave no doubt of the State's determination to preserve its admirable freedom in recent years from the worst of all affronts to the law.

Judge Moves the Jones Trial to Fincastle Jan. 2

Judge Benjamin Haden, sitting in the circuit court at Fincastle Tuesday, announced that a change of venue would be granted Philip Jones, charged with the murder of the two little Hill girls at Clifton Forge last month, and the three others held with him as accessories: Mrs. [illegible] Jones, his wife; Arthur [illegible] and John Pryor. The case will be tried at Botetourt Court House on January 2.

Judge Haden's ruling was in reply to a motion by Attorney T. Warren Messick, of Roanoke, white attorney of Roanoke, appointed to defend the quartet. The trial will take place at Fincastle, a hamlet town, which was the scene of a famous kidnap-murder trial this summer, and is about thirty miles from Clifton Forge, the scene of the crimes.

After reviewing the procedure leading up to the writing of opinion, Judge Haden said:

Points In Issue

At a conference between counsel for the prosecution and defense the following matters were brought to the attention to the court:

1. The prisoner intends to enter a plea of not guilty, his guilt or innocence to be determined by the verdict of a jury.

2. The prosecution intends to introduce as witnesses approximately twenty to twenty-five persons, including among others, (a) The mayor of the city of Clifton Forge and a large part, if not the whole, of the Clifton Forge police force; (b) Quite a number of school children of Clifton Forge.

(3)—The trial for any of these cases (indictments) will probably consume four days.

(4)—That counsel who will prosecute and defend the prisoner reside in Covington, Clifton Forge and Roanoke.

Lynchings-1934
Prevented

Wisconsin.

4798

Three Accused Youths Protected From Mob

Constitution 3-13-34

JUNEAU, Wis., March 10.—(AP)—Threats of lynching prompted police to rush three youths, held in a double killing, to the security of the state prison at Waupun early today. The district attorney received reports a mob was forming in Beaver Dam.

The three, Charles Kranz, 23; Jack Ter Lane, 19, and Edward Shoppe, 19, were transferred under heavy guard from cells in county jail here.

Their detention came after Emil Guse, 73-year-old farmer, was found shot to death, and Charles Becker, 52, fatally injured in a ditch near Beaver Dam Sunday. Police said they found Guse's purse in Kranz's room at Beaver Dam.

NEW YORK AMERICAN

MAR 11 1934

LYNCHING FOILED

JUNEAU, Wis., March 10 (AP).—Threats of lynching prompted police to rush three youths, held in a double killing, to the State prison at Waupun today.

Lynchings - 1934

Alabama

4883

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Girl's Cry Puts Negro To Flight

Advertiser

Awakes To Find Intruder In Room; Suspect Held But Denies Accusation

11-30-34

Sheriff's Deputies G. A. Mosley and H. S. Sellers last night were questioning James Carter, 23-year-old negro railroad section laborer of McGehee's Switch, in connection with the attempted assault at 3:30 a.m. yesterday upon a young white girl as she slept in her home four miles south of the city on the Mobile Highway.

Montgomery, Ala.

The negro, who will be charged today with attempted criminal assault, admitted to the officers that he was in the vicinity of the girl's home early yesterday morning but denied firmly that he went to, or entered, the house. Deputies quoted Carter as saying that he had had "some likker," and that he could not fully recall where he had been during the night.

The deputies seized Carter late yesterday afternoon as the negro went to see if the railroad had any extra work for him to perform.

At 3:30 a.m. yesterday, according to the story given the officers, the girl was sleeping alone in her room when she was suddenly awakened by a movement of her bed. Opening her eyes, she saw dimly the face of a negro man near her own.

Noticing that the girl had awakened, the negro threatened her if she "dared to holler" and moved nearer. The girl realized from the negro's breath and actions that he was, to a considerable extent, under the influence of liquor.

Until the intruder grasped her, the girl, almost paralyzed with fear, made no outcry. As the negro's hands touched her, however, she heard a movement in her father's room and shrieked for help. The negro darted through an open window, from which he previously had removed the screen, and fled. The girl's father rushed into the room to learn the cause of the cries, and, noting the open window, went in pursuit of the negro. The latter, however, escaped in the darkness.

Learning that Carter had been away from his home, which is about six miles from the girl's, the deputies went in search for him and succeeded in making an arrest when the negro went to learn if he could obtain any additional work. Carter, it was said, was working "extra time" as a section hand.

NEGRO WHO INSULTED WOMAN STILL SOUGHT

Post

Hunt Is Continued After Bond Is Forfeited

8-29-34

HUNTSVILLE, Aug. 28.—(Special)—Police today continued hunt for John Donnell, negro truck driver, who forfeited a $25 bond after being arrested last week for allegedly attempting to make a date with a young white woman.

Birmingham, Ala.

Mrs. Louise Franklin, waitress in a Merrimack cafe, told officers the negro came into the cafe where she worked and asked her for a date. The negro fled when Mrs. Franklin reached for a pistol.

An irate crowd of Merrimack citizens was seeking the negro when they learned he had left town.

Lynchings- 1934

Arkansas.

4804

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

NEGRO IS IDENTIFIED AS CHILD'S ATTACKER

Stuttgart Sheriff Removes Suspect to Unannounced Jail

Commercial Appeal 6-22-34

STUTTGART, Ark., June 21.—(AP)—Sheriff C. C. McAllister today removed L. D. Barnes, 20, negro, to an unannounced jail after announcing that the eight-year-old victim of a criminal assault had identified the prisoner as her attacker.

Barnes was arrested at Roe, 15 miles from [illegible], two hours after the girl, the daughter of a tenant farmer, had run screaming to her mother. The latter notified the sheriff's office and a posse of 30 officers and citizens went in pursuit.

6-22-34

The child was alone in her home while her parents were working in the fields. Barnes first was placed in jail here, but removed after Sheriff McAllister said he was identified as the attacker. Barnes had been seen in this vicinity since Sunday.

Sheriff McAllister said Barnes' removal was merely precautionary.

ASSAULT ON WOMAN CONFESSED BY NEGRO

Commercial Appeal 8-20-34

Held at Lonoke After Identification by Victim

Memphis, Tenn.

LONOKE, Ark., Aug. 19.—Jim Brown, 18, negro, is held in the Lonoke County jail on the charge of assaulting a young woman living near Pettus in this county. The attack occurred Saturday on the Lonoke-England highway.

The negro approached her and threatened her life if she screamed and then dragged her into the woods. Brown was arrested at the home of his father by Deputy Sheriffs Jack Benton and Phil Benton, and was given a hearing at England. Brown was identified by the victim, and later made a confession.

He will await the action of the Lonoke County grand jury which will convene early in September.

Accuse Two of Attack

PIGGOTT, Ark., Sept. 18.—Russell Baxter and Everette Kirkman, young men of Kennett, Mo., are in jail here charged with assault on a 15-year-old Kennett girl. The youths offered to take the girl and another girl home from the Kennett band concert and, after driving a distance, they crossed over into Arkansas, where they are alleged to have forced their attentions on one girl. The other girl escaped and notified officers. Both girls have widowed mothers. Preliminary trial will be held Friday.

9-19-34

Memphis, Tenn.

California.

4805

Lynchings-1934
Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

GIRL SAYS NEGROES KILLED COMPANION

News

Also Attacked Her As First Girl Slain, Weird Story To Police Says

10-6-34

Birmingham

LOS ANGELES—(AP)—A story of having witnessed the slaying of her girl friend and having been beaten, slashed and attacked herself in a Central Avenue den where she was held prisoner for two days by a gang of Negroes was told Friday by Irene Willard, 26.

She staggered breathless and bruised into the Newton Street Police Station in the Negro section early Friday with her story.

Miss Willard told police she saw her friend's throat slashed by one of the Negroes, the body wrapped in sheets and then dumped into an automobile.

Her friend, she said, was Gladys Seeley, 23, of Hollywood. Police located the address where the supposed murder victim lived and found her absent. The landlady, however, said the young woman was in the habit of being absent several days at a time.

Miss Willard related that late Thursday night the Negroes loaded the body of her friend into the automobile, forced her into the front seat of the car, and started to drive toward the beach.

"I jumped out of the car and escaped," she said. "I ran as fast as I could."

Miss Willard showed signs of having been abused, officers and hospital attendants said. They were uncertain, however, whether the woman was suffering from hallucinations and nervousness.

Bruised and cut about the face, Miss Willard was clad only in a thin frock. She was barefooted and hatless. Police said she admitted she had been drinking.

"My friend and I went on a slumming expedition last Tuesday night," she said. "We had some drinks. I don't remember what happened until the next morning I found myself in that horrible place with the Negroes."

"SCANDALIZING" OUR NAME

Call
10-12-34
Kansas City, Mo.

The bizarre crime reported at Los Angeles last week in which a woman said she had been maltreated by a group of Negroes, and her companion's throat cut was a lie. We knew it the moment we read it in the daily press, because gang crime is not Negroes' style. Individuals do deeds of violence when in a rage, but for this to have happened there had to be a period of time and a conspiracy of silence, neither of which suits Negro temperament. Next day the supposed dead woman proved to be alive! Of course the story was a lie!

The American people swallow any old story about Negroes which represents them as bad. This habit is inherited from slavery days when it was necessary to divert criticism from that cruel system, just as pepper became an article of food in the age when tainted meat was so commonplace that something was needed to keep it from offending the appetite.

The one relieving feature about this campaign of lies against Negroes is that it is an admission that conscience is not dead, and that it demands some excuse for the deliberate injustices done.

It is hard to bear up under false accusations. But Negroes must not yield to the temptation to leave off building themselves up, in order to tear somebody else down, because in the last analysis they will be measured by what they do, not by what people say of them.

Lynchings-1934

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Colorado

4806

Negro Identified As Attacker By Girl And Escort

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO., April 16.—(AP)—George Williams, 21, was identified tonight by Miss Georgia Lindley and James O'Brien, Colorado College students, as one of the two negroes who assaulted them early yesterday.

4-17-34

Police Chief Hugh D. Harper said Miss Lindley, 22-year-old co-ed from Longview, Texas, identified Williams when he and four other negroes were paraded before the girl in the hospital room.

Immediately afterward, the five negroes were taken to the State penitentiary at Canon City. Harper said this move was made to circumvent any mob violence.

Previously, O'Brien, who is 19, his head bandaged as the result of wounds suffered in struggling with the assailants, visited police headquarters and viewed nine suspects held at the El Paso County Jail.

Miss Lindley is suffering from shock and facial wounds. Her attackers ripped her clothing and hit her blow after blow with the heel of her slipper.

O'Brien, also severely beaten, was given medical care at the hospital but released.

Chief Harper and Police Inspector I. B. Bruce said doctors reported that Miss Lindley had not been criminally attacked.

About midnight last night, a mob of around 300 entered the negro residential section and burned a figure in effigy. There was considerable confusion, but no attempt to harm any of the negro residents, Chief Harper said.

Most of the mob, Chief Harper said, were Colorado College students.

He addressed a meeting of students today and obtained a promise that they would attempt no further disorders. Dean C. B. Hershey, acting president of the college, warned that a repetition of last night's disturbance would mean punishment for students involved.

Bruce said the entire police and fire department forces were available to protect the prisoners.

O'Brien and the girl were returning from a Country Club dance when the two negroes accosted them as they sat in a car in front of the girl's home. They forced the students to drive to an isolated spot where the beating occurred.

Lynch Mob Burns Effigy of Negro in Colorado Springs

Daily Worker

4-17-34

Police, Boss Press Incite Chauvinist Orgy by College Students

COLORADO SPRINGS, April 16—In a wild lynch orgy incited by police attempts to pin an assault charge on George Williams, a Negro worker, Colorago college students milled about the county jail last night, shouting for the lynching of Williams. They later burned an effigy of a Negro worker in the streets.

Wholesale arrests of Negroes "on suspicion" created a tense situation following an attack allegedly by two "unidentified Negroes" on two college students, Georgia Lindley, 22, daughter of a wealthy Longview, Texas, oil family, and James O'Brien, 19, of Colorado Springs.

O'Brien told police that he and Miss Lindsey had been picked up in front of the girl's home and taken for a ride by "two Negroes," and beaten into unconsciousness. Physicians who examined Miss Lindsey today exploded the "rape" implication spread by the capitalist press in their reports of the attack.

Lynchings-1934

Florida

4807

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Negro Slain In Fla. Terror On Citrus Pickers

Daily Worker

Bosses Raise 'Rape' Lie; Ten Workers Jailed in Plot To Block Strike

4-6-34

TAMPA, Fla., April 5.—James Franklin, a Negro worker, was murdered yesterday by Joe Kopman, a citrus grower, as part of a reign of terror being developed by the landowners against citrus pickers who are preparing a state-wide strike for better conditions and union recognition. The pickers are under the leadership of the United Citrus Workers of Florida, an independent union.

New York

Two police officers held the Negro worker while Kopman put a revolver to his back and shot him to death, firing twice into his body.

The traditional "rape" frame-up has been raised aaginst the murdered worker in an attempt to create a lynching atmosphere against the pickers, many of whom are Negroes. Kopman now accuses Franklin of having "attacked" his daughter. "Justifiable homicide," a coroner's jury of citrus growers and other business men called the murder, completely exonerating Kopman.

In Polk County, 10 citrus workers have been arrested on a charge of "inducing citrus pickers to break their verbal contracts." A strike has already started there against the Chandler-Davis Packing Co.

Negro Assaults Florida Girl, Is Slain By Father

Advertiser

BRADENTON, FLA., April 4—(AP)—A few hours after Joe Kopman, prominent citrus grower, shot and killed a negro accused of attacking Kopman's small daughter, a coroner's jury today held the act "justifiable homicide" and the grower was immediately released.

4-5-34

James Franklin, negro yardman, was killed as he walked between two officers from a physician's office where a physical and mental examination had been made upon the prisoner.

Kopman stepped between the officers, placed a revolver to the negro's back and fired twice. The negro died at a hospital shortly afterward.

Officers said the negro denied attacking the child who previously had identified him as her assailant. Franklin, the officers said, told them he was working next door when he saw the little girl fall from a mulberry tree, and he ran and picked her up. There was evidences, however, the authorities reported, that an assault had been attempted. The little girl suffered only bruises. The alleged attack occurred Saturday.

Lynchings-1934

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

General.

4808

New York Age
6-2-34
New York N.Y.

"NEGRO" IN THE HEADLINES.

"Negro Assaults 5th Brooklyn Woman" shrieks the Daily Mirror in a scare headline clear across its first page. Had any other suspect been involved there would have been no stressing of racial identity. But it seems to be traditional among the majority of editors of daily newspapers in the North, East, South and West to pay more attention to the fact that a Negro is principal in an act of crime than any other feature of the case, even the crime itself.

Whether this addiction to holding up an entire race to condemnation and defamation because of the misconduct of one out of 12,000,000 is by design and agreement, or motivated by a morbid desire to make a sensational appeal to the reading public, are questions for those responsible for this unethical and unfair practice to answer. Why should it materially matter whether an evil-doer is white or black, whether he is Negro, Irish, Jew, Italian, German, English, Scotch, Indian, or what not? A criminal is a criminal regardless of race or color.

Nothing has done more in the past to give the white reading public a wrong impression of the colored American than the daily newspaper whose policy has been to dramatize the race in wrong-doing, but seldom, if ever, to publish articles showing any member of it in a favorable light. Whether intentionally or otherwise, for years the average white editor has magnified the colored American's faults and minimized his virtues; in fact, the white community would not know that we possess virtues if left to some dailies to impart such information.

There was a time when the headline, "Big Burly Negro" used to meet the gaze of the newspaper reader. Today the adjectives have been dropped, but the tendency to emphasize race continues. "Negro Did This" and "Negro Did That" is the objectionable type of present-day journalism to indict one-tenth of the nation's population for the misdeeds of a few. No other race has been so wrongly lynched and vilified in headlines.

New York Age
6-2-34
New York N.Y.

A few daily newspapers have come to realize that the Negro is being done a grave injustice and have ceased unnecessarily to inject the race issue. In marked contrast to the Daily Mirror, The New York Times in reporting the same incident told that "Hammer Wielder Fells Fifth Woman," which is a sample of high class journalism. If editors of daily publications are really sincere in wishing to promote better relations between the two races they will emulate the example of The New York Times; if they are bent on fomenting racial hatreds and strife, let them continue to needlessly and maliciously use "Negro" in the headlines.

Lynchings-1934

Georgia

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

4809

TIFTON, GA.
GAZETTE
FEB 1 6 1934

From The Moultrie Observer:

A negro tried to attack a 14-year-old Norman Park girl, Wednesday afternoon, but she got away from him and he fled. She gave officers a good description of the negro and he was hunted throughout the afternoon and far into the night.

The attempted attack occurred just a few yards off the main highway and only a short distance from the city limits of Norman Park.

As soon as the girl told her story, a crowd began searching for the negro, who was described as about 28 years old, wearing blue overalls and a jumper, and weighing about 140 pounds. Sheriff Beard and his deputies went to the scene and carried dogs with them. The crowd had milled about the scene of the attack and the dogs were unable to pick up the trail. But Wednesday night they followed what was believed to have been scent from his tracks for a considerable distance, losing it in a railroad cut near Crosland. It was believed that the negro might have boarded a north bound train at that point. The train was searched at Omega, however, and no negro filling the description of the hunted man was found. It was said, however, that he might have left the train as it slowed up for Omega.

Negro Sentenced Here For Using Insulting Words

Telegraph 2-24-34 Macon, Ga.

Maximum imprisonment for disorderly conduct—60 days in the city stockade—was pronounced on Charles Holmes, [illegible]-year-old Negro, in recorder's court yesterday on conviction of making insulting remarks to a young white woman.

The young woman said that on two nights, Sunday and Monday, between 8:30 and 9 o'clock, the Negro accosted her as she walked on Ocmulgee street between Third and Broadway. She had been at the home of a relative, where a small child was ill, at 103 Third street, and was walking to her home on Broadway, she said.

On the first occasion she said she ran, and on the second night she said the Negro grabbed her by the hand and she wrenched loose and fled. She then reported the incidents to police authorities.

Tuesday night officers were patroling the street at the time the young woman usually walked to her home and they saw Holmes loitering about, they said.

When Officer W. L. O'Cain stopped to question the Negro, he ran. He was overtaken a short distance away.

In court yesterday Holmes said he was the victim of mistaken identity, although the young woman positively identified him.

His presence in the section, a considerable distance from his home at 321 First avenue, was for the purpose of delivering washing for his mother, he said.

The hearing was before Mayor Herbert I. Smart, acting recorder.

ATTACK ON WOMAN IS CHARGED TO NEGRO

Constitution 9-1-34 Atlanta, Ga.

SAVANNAH, Ga., Aug. 31.—(AP)—An unidentified negro charged with attacking a white woman in Bryan county was spirited away to an unannounced jail late today by officers and a posse of citizens.

Investigating authorities said the woman, traveling alone in an automobile, was attacked by the negro as she attempted to remove a tree branch which had been placed across the highway at a lonely spot eight miles from Ways Station.

The negro, in his bare feet and with two toes missing on his right foot, was easily trailed, Bryan county officers said, and was captured a mile from the highway. Deputies from Chatham, Bryan and Effingham counties joined the search.

Chief W. F. Chapman of the Chatham county police, returned here tonight and said he did not know where the prisoner had been carried.

NEGRO IN DALTON JAIL CHARGED WITH ATTACK

Constitution 9-8-34

DALTON, Ga., Sept. 7.—A negro who gave the name of George Russell, of Birmingham, Ala., has been placed in the Whitfield county jail by Sheriff Bryant charged with an attempted attack upon a white woman near here Thursday. Atlanta, Ga.

The negro, according to officers, was working on a railroad track several miles out from Dalton and accosted the woman and attempted to attack her. An approaching automobile frightened him and he ran, it is said. The woman gave the alarm and officers captured the negro several hours later.

Criminal Assault Charged to Negro

Telegraph 8-11-34

Troup Sheriff Says Man Held Is Not Walter Roe

Macon, Ga.

LAGRANGE, Ga., Aug. 10 (AP)—Sheriff H. N. Brady today said a Negro held here and at first believed to be Walter Roe, escaped convict whose case has been widely discussed in the gubernatorial campaign, was not Roe.

The Negro, listed as Charles Fincher, resembled Roe and local officials believed it might be the Bartow county felon until Deputy Sheriff Howell of Cartersville, came here yesterday and talked to him. The deputy knew Roe and said Fincher was not the Negro sought.

Roe was sentenced to death for an attack on a white woman and clemency was denied by Governor Talmadge. Later Judge Pittman said he received evidence that the assault was not committed and gave Roe a new trial, sentencing him to 20 years. The case has been widely discussed by both Pittman and Talmadge during the campaign.

Sheriff Brady said Fincher was being held on a charge of assault with intent to criminally attack a Hogansville white woman.

Negroes Are Sought For Kentucky Assault

Constitution 10-7-34 Atlanta, Ga.

PINEVILLE, Ky., Oct. 6.—(UP) Officers and specially deputized citizens, aided by bloodhounds, searched the mountains of this section tonight for two negroes who attacked and criminally assaulted Mrs. Margaret Dunn, 37-year-old widow, leaving her gagged with leaves.

The assault was witnessed by Mrs. Dunn's 10-year-old son, Aaron, who was forced to remain at a slight distance by the negroes.

The attackers appeared while the woman and her son were picking grapes. When Mrs. Dunn resisted, she was beaten into unconsciousness.

After the negroes disappeared the boy ran to the house of a neighbor who spread the alarm. A searching party found the woman 30 minutes later, still unconscious and with her mouth full of leaves.

Physicians said Mrs. Dunn suffered knife wounds and abrasions as well as severe shock. Her condition was described as serious.

Posse leaders, splitting their parties into three groups to surround the scene, were confident the attackers would be arrested with little delay. Feeling was reported running high among the mountaineers.

SCHOOL TEACHER KNIFED BY NEGRO

Telegraph

Mrs. Pearl Keown of Lindale in Critical Condition After Being Stabbed

10-15-34

ROME, Ga., Oct. 14. (AP)—Stabbed twice in the neck by an unidentified Negro, Mrs. Pearl Keown, school teacher and widow of a Rome druggist, was in a hospital here tonight in a critical condition from shock and loss of blood. Macon, Ga.

The superintendent of nurses at the hospital said preparations were being made for a transfusion. Several persons were ready to furnish the blood as soon as the tests had been completed.

Meanwhile city and county officers were described by deputies as being "hot" on the trail of the Negro, who attacked the woman with a knife a few minutes after she stepped from a passenger train.

Officers at Cedartown, several miles away, were reported on their way to Rome with bloodhounds to assist in the hunt.

At the hospital, Mrs. Keown was too weak for questioning, but told nurses her assailant was a young Negro, who stabbed her without warning. She managed to stumble to her boarding place about a block and a half from the scene of attack and an ambulance was called.

Officers said that after leaving the station she walked a short distance down the railroad track in the direction of her boarding house and that it was shortly after leaving the tracks that she was accosted by the Negro.

In the immediate neighborhood of the attack there are few houses, officers said.

Mrs. Keown had been to Atlanta where she spent the week-end with relatives. Her mother and other relatives were on the way here but had not arrived at the scheduled time for the blood transfusion.

Surgeons at the hospital said they entertained hope for her recovery.

Georgia School Teacher Is Stabbed By Negro

Advertiser

ROME, GA., Oct. 14.—(AP)—Stabbed twice in the neck by a negro, Mrs. Pearl Cowan, school teacher and widow of a well-known Rome druggist, was in McCall Hospital tonight in a critical condition from shock and loss of blood.

The superintendent of nurses at the hospital said preparations were being made to give Mrs. Cowan a blood transfusion. 10-15-34

Meanwhile city and county officers were described by deputies as being "hot" on the trail of the negro who attacked the woman with a knife a few minutes after she stepped from a train

Montgomery, Ala.

Attempted Assault Charged to Negro

Telegraph

Henry Height, 54, Negro of 1031 Third street, was arrested yesterday afternoon on a charge of attempted criminal assault on an eight-year-old Negress. 11-24-34

Police, who took the Negro in custody upon complaint of the child's parents, took the small girl to the Macon hospital where internes said they found no evidences of an attack. Height will be tried this morning in recorder's court.

Macon, Ga.

Negro Bound Over In Assault Case

Telegraph 11-25-34 Macon, Ga.

Henry Height, Negro, was ordered held for trial in superior court yesterday at a recorder's court heaing on a charge of attempted criminal assault on an eight-year-old Negro girl. Police said the alleged attempt was made at Height's home in the 100 block of Third street Friday.

Height, who said he was 54 years old, denied the charge and said he was being prosecuted for "spite" by the girl's relatives because he sold them a "number" that failed to win in a lottery.

The child was examined by Macon hospital internes and no evidence of an attack was found, it was stated.

Kentucky

4810

Lynchings - 1934

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

ATTEMPTED ASSAULT IS CHARGED TO NEGRO

Commercial Appeal

Officers Spirit Him Away From Mayfield

8-21-34

MAYFIELD, Ky., Aug. 20.—Spirited away at midnight under heavy guard, Benny Young, 56, Corinth, Miss., negro, was being held in jail in a nearby town today on a charge of attempted assault on three girls whose ages range from six to ten years. Memphis, Tenn.

Police said the negro lured the children into an abandoned ice cream factory here. He offered them watermelon and cake. The first complaint came to officers last night after the Wilson child related an account of the affair to her mother.

Officers said the negro told the girls he "would cut your heads off and put them in that ice box" if they told their parents.

Bloodhounds Trail Woman's Attacker

PINEVILLE, KY., Oct. 6.—(AP)—Mrs. Maggie Dunn, a 30-year-old widow, was beaten into unconsciousness and attacked by two negroes near here today. Posses of several hundred men with bloodhounds tonight were searching Bell, Knox and Harlan Counties for the assailants. 10-7-34

Mrs. Dunn was brought to a hospital here after her son, Aaron, 10, called neighbors. She had gone with Aaron to the edge of a wood near her home at Four-Mile to pick wild grapes. Seeing two strange negroes, Aaron said his mother cried, "there's two negroes, let's run," and they both fled.

The woman was overtaken and knocked down with a rock. The boy fled to a neighbor's home and called for help. When found Mrs. Dunn was unconscious from bruises and lacerations on her head and face and was otherwise badly bruised.

Sheriff James Riding organized a posse and sent to Harlan for bloodhounds in an effort to trail the negroes. Several hundred men from the three counties armed themselves and started searching the wooded knobs and irregular valleys along the Bell-Harlan and Knox County lines.

Circuit Judge James M. Gilbert and Commonwealth Attorney Daniel Boone Smith said that if taken alive the suspects would be sent to Harlan for safe keeping.

Negroes Held In Attack On Kentucky Woman

Advertiser

HARLAN, KY., Oct. 8.—(AP)—Two negroes whose general description tallied with those who attacked a 30-year-old widow in Bell County, Saturday were arrested here today. They gave their names as Alec White, 40, and Willie Lee Wynne, 30, but denied any participation in the crime. 10-9-34

The two negroes were seen coming out of the woods towards the Louisville and Nashville Railroad tracks at Loyall shortly after noon and Jess Johnson, Loyall chief of police, trailed them to Tway and then to Harlan where he arrested them.

NEGROES SOUGHT IN ATTACK ON WOMAN

Advertiser

Kentucky Miner's Widow Victim Of Beating; Country Combed

10-9-34

PINEVILLE, KY., Oct. 7. — (AP) — Two strange negroes dressed in ragged overalls were sought tonight by posses of coal miners as the assailants of a miner's widow who yesterday was found unconscious in a field near her home.

Men from the coal mines of Bell, Harlan and Knox Counties were armed with shotguns, pistols and rifles. Montgomery, Ala.

The victim, Mrs. Maggie Dunn, about 30, recovered sufficiently after being treated in a hospital to describe her assailants. Her account tallied with that given at two coal mines of two strange negroes who applied for work Friday. They wore dirty, ragged overalls.

An airplane circled over the wooded knobs and valleys late yesterday and bloodhounds were put on the trail. So many men had rushed to Mrs. Dunn's cabin in Four-Mile Hollow, North of Pineville, however, that the trail was obliterated before the hounds arrived. Trains were stopped at towns all around Pineville and searched, and Sheriff James Ridings today expressed the belief the fugitives had gotten into the mountains North or Northwest of Pineville.

"We're not giving up," he added.

Asked what would be done with the men if caught, the sheriff replied that if he or his deputies got them, they would be rushed from the county at once. "Feeling is running too high to jail them here," he explained.

Mrs. Dunn who supported herself and her three children by washing and doing housework for nearby families, had gone with Aaron, her 10-year-old son, to pick wild grapes on the edge of a wood near her home.

"Run for your life," she cried to the boy when she saw the two strange negroes. The boy fled. After a chase that led her through brush and briars she was knocked down with a rock and choked and beaten before lapsing into unconsciousness. The boy reached a neighbor's home, but when help came the assailants had gone.

R

Lynchings-1934

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Louisiana

4811

MONROE, LA.
NEWS STAR

JUL 9 1934

NEGRO ATTACKER IS HELD IN JAIL

Escort Is Too Drunk To Assist Girl Beset On Highway

BASTROP, La., July 9.—(Special.)—Andrew McCloud, 26-year-old negro farmer living near Jones, is being held in the parish jail at Bastrop on charges of attempted criminal assault on a 19-year-old Bastrop white girl.

The attempted assault is alleged to have occurred late Saturday night on the highway about a quarter of a mile from Jones. The girl in company with a young man from Bastrop had been to a dance near Jones and were on their way back home when the automobile driven by the girl's escort, went into a ditch. The girl told Sheriff J. Fred Carpenter that she started to walk up the highway to a filling station a short distance away for assistance when she met the negro, who attempted to attack her. She stated that the negro placed his arm over her mouth to prevent her from calling for help and then attempted to drag her off the highway. She struggled with him and the lights of an approaching automobile frightened the negro away. The girl then made her way to the filling station, where she told the story of the attack and the sheriff's department at Bastrop was notified.

The girl told Sheriff Carpenter that her escort was too drunk to assist her.

The negro was arrested early Sunday morning at his home near Jones and, according :o Sheriff Carpenter, confessed to the attempted attack.

OFICERS SEEK NEGROES

Commercial Appeal

Couple Held Up in Wooded Section Near Monroe

10-24-34

MONROE, La., Oct. 22.—Monroe police are seeking two negroes who attacked a couple in a wooded section near the outskirts of the city and attempted to assault the woman.

Memphis Tenn

Leo DeMoss, who resides near Monroe, ran to a residence some distance away when he and his companion were menaced and gave an alarm, according to police. Officers went to the scene and found the woman. She said the negroes fled in DeMoss's automobile. The car was found later abandoned on a highway south of this city.

RALEIGH, N. C.
TIMES

AUG 7 1934

TYPICAL SOUTHERN LYNCHING WITH BRAND NEW SCENARIO

Somehow there is lacking the usual clamor set up by the perniciously active society for the advancement of colored people concerning one of the most unusual and brutally executed lynchings which has occurred in the South for years.

Near Shreveport, Louisiana, a negro was accused of attacking and abducting a young woman whom he kept prisoner for several hours and then released on a lonely highway. She spread the alarm and the man was well known in the community as a violent bully. A posse gathered and took up the trail. They found the culprit in a stalled car and easily effected his capture. No officers of the law were present and the subsequent trial proceedings were informal. The sentence was carried out with expedition, but with a degree of brutality to let the prisoner know that he was in course of being executed. Hands tied behind his back, he was suspended from the limb of a tree by his shoulders. Whereupon his executioners gathered about armed with pine-knot sticks and enjoyed the orgy of beating him to death.

Never in the South was there a more perfect example of the fury of the mob and its lust for blood and utter defiance of the law and its processes. Notwithstanding the aggravation of the crime, every member of this mob not only stood by consenting, but actively participated in what was in every legal respect first degree murder.

Yet for once there is no clamor from the society pledged to protect the legal rights and throw every safeguard about any negro arrested for crime and to seek prosecution of all who may visit upon the malefactor a summary vengeance!

The reason?

It happens that the criminal was a negro, but so was his girl victim.

It happens that the mob which hunted him down and beat him to a pulp was composed of negroes.

True, all this happened in a Southern State and constituted a hundred per cent lynching.

But with no white man or woman featured anywhere in the proceedings, these usually eager Northern societies unanimously rejected the scenario.

Lynchings-1934

Maryland

4812

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Maryland Lynch Gangs Gather as Negro Is Arrested

Magee Framed By Cops on Charge of "Attempted" Assault

Daily Worker

CENTREEVILLE, Md., Jan. 29.—Maryland lynch gangs were gathering here today following the arrest of William Magee, Negro worker, on a charge of "attempting to assault a white woman," last Wednesday night at Easton, Md. 30-34

Magee is lodged at the Queen Anne's County jail here, and the authorities are making no attempt to remove him to Baltimore, despite the threatening attitude of the lynch gangs. The police have not succeeded in getting the victim of the alleged attack to identify him, but failing this, have issued a statement that Magee has been identified by "the family" of the woman. This statement, together with their pseudo-secrecy in "secretly" lodging him in jail here, has served to incite a furious lynch sentiment against the Negro worker.

The authorities are attempting to rush through the railroading of Magee and have scheduled a hearing this week, despite the rabid lynch sentiment. The prosecution has announced that it will oppose any move far a change of venue, pretending as usual that the Negro will get a fair trial in the local lynch courts.

JAIL 'HANDY-MAN' HELD IN ASSAULT ON GIRL, 16

BEL AIR, Md., Oct. 15.—(P)—Alex Jones, negro, who has been "handy-man" around the jail here for five or six days, today was arrested on a charge of having criminally assaulted a 16-year-old white girl in Montgomery county, Maryland, near Washington, about two weeks ago.

Jones was identified by a police circular received here today. The negro, who also travels under the aliases of William Bull and Alabama Smith, admitted his identity but denied he was guilty of the assault.

Lynchings-1934
Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Michigan.

4813

Saved By Workers, Victory Joins Fight on Lynch Courts

Daily Worker
7-10-34
New York, N.Y.

DETROIT, Mich., July 9.—James Victory, Negro worker recently acquitted on a charge of assault through the efforts of the International Labor Defense and the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, has just issued a statement regarding his arrest and acquittal.

The statement follows:

"I was framed because I am a Negro. I was freed only because the International Labor Defense and the League of Struggle for Negro Rights mobilized thousands of Negro and white workers who fought shoulder to shoulder in my defense.

"My case is another Scottsboro case. It grows out of the terrorization and slave-driving of the Negroes by the ruling class. Just as the I. L. D. has fought to save the lives of the nine innocent Scottsboro boys, so they fought and won for me.

"I appreciate the splendid work of the I. L. D. and the L. S. N. R. as well as that of the able attorneys headed by Maurice Sugar in behalf of myself as well as the entire Negro people. I thank all those Negro and white people, who so quickly came to my defense.

"What happened to me, might happen to any Negro. I am going to speak under the auspices of the International Labor Defense and the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, and tell my story.

"I have joined the International Labor Defense. I am asking all my friends and all the Negro people to join me into the I. L. D., as this is the only way to successfully defend the rights of the Negro people.

"(Signed) JAMES VICTORY."

JAMES VICTORY

Mass Protests Force Acquittal Of Victory, Detroit Negro Toiler

Jury Out Eight Hours Despite Clear-Cut Nature of Evidence; Workers To Celebrate Victory

By A. B. MAGIL
Special to the Daily Worker

Daily Worker
6-30-34
New York
N.Y.

DETROIT, June 29.—The six men and six women who comprised the jury filed into the courtroom and stood before the judge. It was exactly ten minutes to eleven P. M. They had been out eight hours and fifteen minutes.

It was stifling hot, with the temperature outside hovering near a hundred. On the left side of the room, guarded by a policeman sat the defendant, James Victory, his handsome mobile half Negro and half Indian face turned expectantly toward the judge

To the right of the jurors stood Maurice Sugar, International Labor Defense attorney, who that morning, in an eloquent argument to the jury, had torn to shreds the fabric of the police frame-up against Victory.

The Clerk of the Court asked the jury whether they had reached a verdict. They had. What was it? The foreman's low voice seemed to fill the courtroom: "Not Guilty."

Thus wa sthe curtain rung down last night on the frame-up of James Victory, thirty-nine-year-old Negro worker and World War veteran, indicted on two counts: "Robbery armed" and "assault with intent to murder," on a charge of having assaulted and robbed a Southern-born white woman, Mrs. Carl Kaye, on the evening of May 12. The police, who decided to "get" Victory and the capitalist press, which had yelped for his blood, were cheated of their prey.

Credit for saving this innocent Negro worker from a living tomb goes to the International Labor Defense and League of Struggle for Negro Rights, which in addition to securing competent legal defense, organized a mass protest movement of Negro and white to win his release.

The I.L.D. and L.S.N.R. are planning a celebration in honor of Victory's release.

Prosecutor Tries To Inject Race Hatred In Trial Of Victory

Daily Worker.
6-28-34
New York, N.Y.

Negro's Testimony Brings Out Clear Cut Character of Vicious Frame-Up

By A. B. MAGIL
(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, Mich., June 27.—Simply and unfalteringly James Victory, Negro gas station worker and world war veteran, framed on a charge of attacking and robbing Mrs. Carl Kaye, Southern-born white woman, today told in court the story of his life and gave an account of all his movements on the eve of Saturday, May 12, when the crime is alleged to have been committed.

Victory's testimony, given under the questioning of Maurice Sugar, noted labor attorney, retained by the International Labor Defense, was one of the high points in a trial remarkable for the completeness of the defense and the clear-cut character of the frame-up against him.

Son of a full-blooded Indian farmer and a Negro slave, Victory told how he went to work at the age of seven. At 13 he was already a tinner at the McKeesport Tin Plate Mill, McKeesport, Pa., working there continuously for 10 years till he was drafted in the army. He saw action on three fronts, the Argonne Forest, Chateau Thierry and the Hindenburg line, and went over the top three times.

His account of his movements on the night of May 12 corroborated in every detail the testimony of ab[illegible] [illegible]esses who preceded him. [illegible] relating what happened to him after his arrest May 14, he told how a detective at the Connors St. Station had pointed a gun at him and threatened him, though he didn't even know what he had been arrested for. At the main police headquarters a detective had said to him: "You black son of a bitch, if you don't tell the truth, I'll whip your head."

Daily Worker
6-28-34
New York
N.Y.

Attorney Sugar placed nine character witnesses on the stand, most of them white, who testified to the high reputation Victory enjoyed in the community in which he worked.

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Frank Schemanske, in cross-examination, made several attempts to discredit Victory's character, but failed. He tried to introduce the element of race prejudice by asking whether Victory hadn't once asked a white woman whether she wouldn't hire him to clean her apartment. This question was ruled out when defense attorney Sugar vigorously objected. The prosecution's last stand proved to be a boomerang. Schemanske called two dicks in an effort to disprove statements of Victory and James Spain, Negro defense witness, that they had been terrorized by detectives. Sugar ironically asked one of the dicks "The police never point guns at prisoners, do they, they never intimidate or beat them up, they never swear at them, do they?"

The large crowd in the courtroom laughed outright.

Tomorrow Sugar will make his plea, with Schemanske allowed a rebuttal, after which Judge Stein will charge the jury. The jury consists of six men and six women, argely middle class in composition.

White Co-ed Fakes Story That Causes Man's Death

Janitor Drops Dead After Being Questioned About Kidnaping Yarn

DETROIT, Mich., Nov. 2.—A story fabricated in the mind of a 21-year-old white co-ed at Wayne university, to gain some publicity, was indirectly the cause of the death of an innocent man before the story was unfolded and the student held up to ridicule.

Ne Journal

11-3-34

Cleve Gaz

Miss Elsie Waier (white), a senior student at the university, disappeared last Monday after attending classes at the Children's Fund Center that same afternoon. Efforts on the part of her father and police officials failed to disclose any trace of the vanished co-ed.

The Children's Fund Center is located in the midst of the Race settlement, 628 Fredrick street, and the father and mother expressed the belief that the girl had been kidnaped and killed by some one living in the district. They lambasted the Wayne authorities for holding nursing classes at the building, claiming that the district was one of the worst in the city. The daily press also sent up a hue and cry about morons and killers snatching white women off the streets.

Wednesday Harry Thompson, 45, 431 Ferry street, a former janitor at the center, was arrested at his home. Three detectives called at Thompson's rooms about nine o'clock, and carried him down to headquarters for questioning. He was detained until late in the afternoon.

Shortly after returning home, Thompson fell dead while preparing his evening meal.

At first the daily papers printed the story that Thompson had committed suicide because of fear. It was intimated that the Waier girl had been killed and Thompson was either the kidnaper and killer, or had knowledge about it.

Thursday Miss Waier was taken off a bus in St. Louis. At first she told police officials of St. Louis that she had been kidnaped while standing in front of the center waiting for her father. After close questioning by Detroit police, she admitted that she had concocted the kidnaping story.

Thompson's wife is near death in the Women's hospital and does not know of her husband's death. He was buried Saturday and is survived by his widow and two children.

Michigan.

4814

Lynchings-1934

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

DETROIT, MICH.

~~NEWS~~

Saturday Night

SEP 1 1934

Another Raper on Parole

ONCE again a Michigan convict on parole is take in a violent crime—an unusually nasty crime. Impersonating an officer, he stopped a farm truck a Williamston on the Lansing highway and made th farmer at the wheel show his driver's license. Findin that the farmer's 13-year-old daughter, who was no driving at all, did not have a driver's license, he insisted that every automobile passenger must carry one, took the child into his own car, and started for Lansing to "get this matter settled." Turning down a side road he drove to a point near Mason, assaulted the girl, and left her on the roadside. She hitch-hiked her way back to Lansing and found her parents at the municipal market. They identified Norman W. Hall, a graduate of Jackson, as the culprit after he had been picked up by a state trooper.

This is just another piece of horrible evidence that the parole office at Lansing doesn't know what kind of crooks it is letting loose on the public. Hall was arrested in Saginaw in 1929 on a charge of grand larceny, but was not brought to trial. A little later he went to Jackson for from 2 to 10 years for negotiating a bad check, and was paroled in 1932. He is lucky to have escaped a lynching party.

The list of repeaters on parole grows steadily since we recently printed the record of 53 of them taken for new crimes in Detroit alone, not counting those who have not yet been apprehended. But Judge Lacy remains the only candidate for governor who advocates a revision of the parole system to protect peopl from the brute who walks like a man.

Mississippi.

4815

Lynchings-1934

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

DOOR-CRASHING HOODLUMS TAKE TWO WEEKS LOOKING FOR WRONG MAN WHO "INSULTED" WHITE GIRL

WOMEN AND MEN BEATEN AND JAILED IN RUTHLESS RAIDING OF COLORED HOMES

Mob Hinders Sheriff and Police In Man Hunt

JACKSON, Miss., Aug. 16.—(ANP)—Jackson and Hinds county have had their seven-day sensation with mobs of gangsters roving throughout the county, entering and breaking into Negro homes, whipping colored men and women, all in the search for a phantom colored man who was alleged to have called up a white woman and "insulted her."

Of course, "insult" in such cases might mean anything. It might mean also that the woman's husband might have heard her in romantic conversation over the telephone with a white man and that she, in an effort to cover up, should have told him a Negro had called her.

Whatever it means, the police and the sheriff's deputies, and the gangster lynchers got busy, trying to find the Negro. For four days they searched for one George Jackson. The following story was published in the Jackson Daily News:

"Armed and angry citizens spread fear among Negroes of the Forest Hill area near Jackson Saturday while Hinds officers and city police pushed a quiet, intensive hunt for a Negro charged with insulting a white woman.

"Officers said the Negro sought is George Jackson and they expressed the opinion that he would be lynched if captured by the posse.

"The officers sought on several occasions, they said, to curb the temper of the posse, but had apparently failed to do so. Unconfirmed reports were rife that three Negroes, including a woman, had been whipped.

"Deputies of Sheriff Warren Ferguson said they received a call relatives to the whipping of one Negro.

"With the citizens continuing their demonstrations, officers cloaked their probe of the incident in the utmost secrecy.

"Several Negroes were questioned Saturday afternoon relative to Jackson's whereabouts and an unsuccessful raid was made on a house at which Jackson was reputedly staying.

"With the Negro apparently hiding somewhere in Jackson, officers were confident that he will be arrested, but several admitted that activities of the posse were proving a hindrance to the investigation.

"The Negro is charged with making an improper proposal to a white woman over the telephone.

"The hunted man is described as being armed with a rifle and possibly a pistol."

Now all that looks pretty definite, doesn't it, gentle readers? They not only know the man's name, but know he is armed, so that officers nor lynchers should take any chances with him.

But just two days later, the same newspaper published the following:

"Hinds officers and city police outraced a posse here Monday and placed SANDY WILLIAMS, a Negro, in the county jail as the principal in an alleged series of insulting telephone calls to a white woman in the vicinity of Forest Hill.

"Sheriff Warren Ferguson SAID the Negro confessed calling the white woman on three occasions during the past several days, making improper proposals.

"With the Negro under arrest, officers admitted they are in a quandary as to a CHARGE to be placed against him. A tentative study of the Mississippi code had revealed no recourse to the courts other than a possible disturbing the peace charge.

"'Williams'' arrest possibly resulted in saving the lives of two other Negroes who have been hunted for several days by a large number of angry citizens. One of two is still being sought in connection with the case, but the third is believed wholly innocent, officers said.

"Williams made no statement as to the motive for placing the telephone calls. He formerly worked for the white family."

And the following day the same newspaper published the following item:

"Sandy Williams was tried before Justice of the Peace E. T. Calhoun late this afternoon on a charge of disturbing a family. The maximum possible sentence would be a $100 fine and six months in the county jail. Williams pleaded guilty and was sentenced to five months in jail and a $75 fine."

'Twas a nice chase while it lasted, if one has no regard for the Negroes whipped and those whose homes were invaded by the hoodlums.

Lynchings - 1934

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Mississippi.

4816

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
January 4, 1934

NEGROES STAY HERE; MOB SPIRIT COOLING

Girl's Attackers May Not Be Returned This Week

Although Governor McAlister signed extradition papers last night, ordering the three negroes who criminally assaulted Miss Mildred Collins turned over to Mississippi authorities for trial, it is probable they will remain in the county jail over the week-end.

Such mob frenzy as there was in DeSoto County, Miss., where the attack occurred on the 17-year-old Holly Springs High School student, is rapidly cooling, according to reports, and officers here say they want to quiz the negroes regarding other crimes before they are taken away.

However, plans for a strictly legal trial and execution are going forward rapidly. Sheriff Birmingham, of DeSoto County, and Sheriff Jones, of Marshall County, where the girl lived, conferred with Sheriff Bacon yesterday. The former will make all arrangements for the removal—when the time comes.

"No Mob Violence," Say Family

In a telegram to Governor Conner of Mississippi, Gerald W. Chatham, DeSoto County prosecutor, said "the family and friends of the girl have assured us that no mob violence against the negroes will take place here." The negroes are Ernest McGhee, Johnny Jones and Isaac Howard.

Meantime it developed that if there is a trial the frequently used "third degree defense" will be heard. In his jail cell McGhee, who has been called the "brains" of the gang, told a reporter that he had been beaten by officers.

McGhee has a long scar on his left jaw and another on his right temple. A reporter asked him yesterday where he got the scars.

"The officers beat me over there," McGhee declared, but he said he didn't know who the officers were, and offered no details of the beating.

The appearance of the scars does not bear out his story. They appear to be old wounds, while McGhee was arrested only Monday.

McGhee is 23, a native of Raines, near the Mississippi line, who was working for the CWA at ditching, until his arrest. He is a dark negro, about five feet 10 inches tall, and weighs 175 pounds or more.

Howard a Giant

Howard is a big, black negro, who would be described by many as "mean looking." He stands nearly six feet three inches tall, has high cheek bones, with hollow cheeks, and is 25 years old. He is a native of Potts Camp. Howard is credited with being the "muscle man" for the negro gang in the series of robberies to which they have confessed. Most of the robberies included hitting the victims on the head with a pistol.

Jones is a native of Victoria, near Byhalia, Miss. He is about five feet nine inches tall, medium weight, and is also black skinned. Jones says he has worked in Memphis eight years.

To the long string of holdups confessed by the negroes was added yesterday the holdup of L. C. Sharp, negro principal of Douglas School, Dec. 6. Sharp was held up at Fourth and Vance and taken below Whitehaven where he was robbed of about $8 and his rented automobile. He was struck in the face and left to walk seven miles to a telephone.

Sharp went to the jail yesterday and after talking with McGhee, Jones and Howard, reported that they had each admitted that they were the ones who held him up.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
January 5, 1934

MISSISSIPPI NEGROES

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Jan. [illegible]—(AP)—Sheriff W. J. Bacon announced today that three negroes held here following their purported confessions of attacking a Mississippi girl December 27 will not be moved to Hernando, Miss., for trial "for several days."

Governor Hill McAlister, of Tennessee, signed an order of extradition yesterday.

Sheriff Bacon said Sheriff W. M. Birmingham at Hernando was in no hurry to get the prisoners since court does not convene there until next month. The Memphis sheriff added the police here desire to question the negroes further about several robberies.

Governor McAlister approved the extradition after he had been assured there would be no mob violence.

THREE HELD IN ATTACK

[illegible]

One of Trio Held Is Negro Woman At Tupelo

TUPELO, Miss., Sept. 8.—Three negroes are being held in Lee County jail here, where they have been questioned today by Sheriff Will Kelly and County Attorney C. B. Hutchinson in an effort to establish the identity of a negro who attempted to attack Mrs. Sallie Branyan in her home near here late Thursday night.

One of the trio held is a negro woman, to whose home bloodhounds are said to have trailed the would-be attacker.

Missouri.

Lynchings-1934

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

4817

MISSOURI NEGRO HELD AFTER THREAT ON GIRL

Jailed at Caruthersville in Assault Attempt Case

Commercial Appeal 7-24-34

STEELE, Mo., July 23.—Manuel Jenkins, 40, negro, was placed in the Caruthersville jail last night for safe-keeping on a charge of attempting to assault a 10-year-old farm girl. Threats against the negro caused officers to take him from the Steele jail.

Memphis, Tenn.

The negro was arrested by Deputy [illegible], who dispersed a small crowd that had gathered.

The would-be victim was in her father's barn yesterday afternoon obtaining corn to feed her chickens when the negro accosted her. She ran and her father notified officers.

WOMAN BEATS ATTACKER

Commercial Appeal

Caruthersville Officers Continue Search for Man

CARUTHERSVILLE, Mo., Sept. 2.—City officers today were continuing their search for an unidentified white man, about 25 or 30, who last night forced entry into the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eli Lockard and attempted to attack Mrs. Lockard. 9-3-34

Mrs. Lockard, Mrs. Bill Amos, Mrs. Lockard's two small sons and Mrs. Amos' son were in the house at the time. Memphis,

At a knock on the back door, Mrs. Lockard went to see who it was. As soon as she opened the door, the man grabbed her, tearing her dress. Mrs. Lockard jerked away from him and fled into the kitchen. The man pursued her, struck her in the face, partly stunning her, then practically ripped her dress from her. Tenn.

She obtained a revolver and fired three times as he darted through the back screen, but does not think any shot took effect.

New York.

Lynchings - 1934
Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

ATTACK CAUSES LYNCHING PLEA

Journal and Guide

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y. — A "mother's plea" for a lynching appeared in the local paper here following the report which led to the attack on Helen Lachut an 18-year-old white girl by two Negroes which led to the arrest of George Davis, 28 who is being held in default of $25,000 cash bail or $50,000 in property.

9-1-34

The attack on the girl is supposed to have occurred about one a. m. July 30 while she was in the company of Stanley Wojcik, white, and another couple. Doubt was thrown in the girl's story when the other couple who were in the proximity all the while said they heard no outcries, or disturbance.

Norfolk, Va.

A doctor who examined the girl stated that she had undoubtedly had relations but that there was no evidence of a struggle or marks of violence. Persons interested in establishing the innocence of Davis who denied all knowledge of the affair point to the fact that the girl's clothing was bloody and that she might have made up the story of the attack to protect herself and her escort since what had occurred was so evident.

Following the report of the attack a letter signed "A mother" appeared in the local paper. It called on "the men of the community to show chivalry towards their women in the Southern style, to bend all efforts to make the streets safe again for white girls to walk by making an example of a few Negroes."

Girl Attacked.

10-26-34

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., Oct. 25 (AP)—Police today sought a negro youth who early last night dragged a 20-year-old white girl from a sidewalk in the heart of Poughkeepsie and criminally attacked her in a nearby yard.

GIRL'S STORY RESULTS IN OUTBREAK

Journal and Guide

"Mother's" Plea And Man's Arrest Precede Riot

9-1-34

HELD IN $50,000 BAIL

Norfolk, Va.

Couple's Testimony Casts Doubt On Rape Charge

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y—Tension between the races here threatens to renew rioting which climaxed almost a month of smouldering racial bitterness bellieved to have grown out of the raping of a white girl here July 30, and the subsequent arrest of George Davis, 28, who was charged with the crime and lodged in jail in default of $50,000 bail.

Much has happened in this quiet town since Helen Lachut came home, her clothes wrinkled and bloody accompanied by her escort Stanley Wojcik and told a story of having been attacked by Negroes while she and Wojcik were in the park.

A letter published in the local daily and signed "A Mother" calling on the men of the community to make an example of a few Negroes as they do in the South is believed to have done much to inflame the minds of the whites against the Negro populace.

Damaging Testimony

On the other hand, the testimony of another couple seated both within sight and earshot of the alleged outrage cast such doubt on the girl's story that the Negroes felt themselves victimized when Davis was picked up and jailed for the offense.

Although the discord was not believed to have been serious as it proved to be Monday night when the outbreak of violence came, people here were aware of a growing discontent on both sides of the racial line.

The Communists are reported to have staged a meeting at the city market August 14, at which George Hart, district organizer for the International Labor Defense, addressed an assemblage of some 350 white and Negro citizens whom he urged to support the I. L. D. which has undertaken the defense of the youth generally believed to be innocent.

Journal and Guide

Many People Injured

In Monday's rioting three persons were seriously injured and many others received minor abrasions and cuts many of which were treated by neighborhood physicians. The condition of Walter Korpolinski, white grocer, was reported as still critical late Tuesday.

9-1-34

William Fisher, the grocer's alleged attacker as also confined to the hospital. Fisher is said to have stabbed Korpolinski who blocked his path while he was being chased by a mob of whites.

Norfolk Va.

Police are on the alert for another outbreak in the fighting and have issued warnings to the people to keep indoors except when their going out is absolutely necessary.

I. L. D. officials who have likened the case to the world famous Scottsboro Case have announced their intention of fighting the charges against Davis to a finish. Meanwhile extra steps have been taken to protect him from any danger from mobs which it is believed in this charged atmosphere might arise at a moment's notice.

NEGRO FOUND GUILTY OF HAMMER ATTACK

Tribune

Prosecutor Says He Has Been Identified in Assaults on 3 Other Brooklyn Women.

10-17-34

New York

Clyde Allen, 29-year-old Negro, who was accused by the police as the "hammer hitter" who terrorized housewives in the Navy Yard district in Brooklyn several months ago, was convicted by a jury in the Kings County Court yesterday on an assault charge and second-degree burglary.

County Judge Alonzo B. McLaughlin remanded Allen to the Brooklyn City prison for sentence on Nov. 12. He faces a maximum sentence of fifteen years on the assault conviction and ten more for burglary.

Although the indictment against Allen involved only one assault, John J. Keane, Assistant District Attorney, who prosecuted him, said that the defendant had been identified as the assailant in three other assaults on white women. The complainant against him yesterday was Mrs. Bertha Cmirles of 381 Gold Street, Brooklyn, who said that on April 12 Allen forced his way into her apartment, hit her with an axe, and attacked her.

Allen was arrested a month after the assault on Mrs. Smirles. Special squads of police had been posted day and night around the district and Allen was trailed to a vacant house where he was finally trapped.

Davis Found Guilty of "Assault and Battery" In Niagara Falls Case

Crisis

11-3-34

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y. — Verdicts of "guilty" were handed down by a jury here Oct. 25 against Alphonse Davis, 22-year-old Negro worker framed on a flimsy "rape" charge, and against Wm. Fisher, a Negro worker who was almost beaten to death in an attack on an I. L. D. meeting in support of the Davis defense and framed on a charge of "assault and battery."

Davis faces a posible sentence of twenty years, and Fisher five.

The frameup against Davis was completely exposed by the I. L. D., and police officials have been carrying on a vigorous lynch-incitement campaign to bolster up their prosecution. The police-protected attack upon the I. L. D. meeting at which Fisher was beaten while trying to protect two girl I. L. D. members from the blackjacks of the gangsters organized by the police, was part of this campaign.

In the course of the defense, several other supporters of the defense have been framed on various charges and sentenced to the workhouse, including Stanley Chmiell, I. L. D. attorney in the case, and George Hart, district secretary of the I. L. D.

WOMAN ACCUSES NEGRO TO SAVE HER ATTACKER

Journal and Guide

8-25-34

Norfolk, Va.

But Judge Holds Him And Sets Trial For September 15

NEW YORK—Despite the fact that one white woman, alleged victim of a "gorrilla man," has confessed that her attacker was a white man, that she merely placed the blame on a colored man to shield her attacker, and also one youth is being held as the man who has been striking down white women with a hammer in the vicinity of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, Judge George W. Martin last week refused to permit William Burley, 47, of 241 Chauncey St., Brooklyn, to plead guilty, on an assault charge, on the ground that Burley might be the gorrilla man long hunted for.

Burley is charged with striking Mrs. Marie Richard, white, 20, of 1782 Broadway, with a hammer, June 10, smashing her jawbone, while she was walking on Chauncey St. followed by her husband, Elbert Richard, her father, mother, sister, another couple, and a sailor friend.

Refuses to Admit Plea

Refusing to admit the guilty plea, Judge Martin said: "For all I know this may be the hammer slayer. I'll take no chances. If he is, I'll take good care of him."

The white woman who allegedly confessed that she had wrongly accused a colored man of assaulting her was Mrs. Pauline Bernstein 34 Leo Place, Brooklyn.

She got the idea of placing the blame on a Negro, she is reported as confessing to District Attorney William F. X. Geoghan, from newspaper stories printed about the "gorrilla man."

The other man held for the gorrilla man attack and whom Mrs Bernstein had accused of attacking her was Clyde Allen, jobless and with no home. Allen had been shot and captured by police who had been instructed to bring the "gorrilla man" in, dead or alive.

Trial September 15

He was held for attacking Mrs Bertha Smirles, one of the white women allegedly attacked. No date was set for his trial at the time he was held. Judge Martin ordered the indictment on Burley set for trial on September 15.

According to witnesses, Burley came out of a doorway just as Mrs. Richard and her family were passing, flew swiftly past Mr. Richard and his wife's family, who were behind, and attacked the woman with the hammer. He was overtaken by Mr. McElleny, Mrs. Richard's father.

Patrolman John Engler, who made the arrest, told Judge Martin that Burley told him at the time that he had mistaken the blonde woman for his niece and wanted "to put the bumps on her." Burley denied that.

4818

Daily Worker
8-20-34
New York, N.Y.

Niagara Falls Negro Held in $50,000 Bail In 'Rape' Frame-Up

I.L.D. Starts Battle in New "Scottsboro Case" While Press Screams Incitements To Campaign of Lynchings

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., Aug. 19.—A "rape" frame-up which bears startling resemblance to the Scottsboro case is being fought by the International Labor Defense here.

The framed man is George Davis, a 23-year-old Negro worker. He has been bound over to the grand jury on the high bail of $25,000 cash or $50,000 property. The frame-up accompanied by efforts of the local press and police to whip up lynch spirit against the Negroes of Niagara Falls.

On Monday, July 30, the Niagara Falls **Gazette** printed. under screaming headlines, a story to the effect that at 1 o'clock that morning an 18-year-old white girl, Helen Lachut, had been raped by two Negroes. The story went that the girl had been out with a white boy, Stanley Wojcik, and another couple, and that while in the park, two Negroes had jumped at them, held Wojcik prisoner, and had taken the girl into the bushes.

Print Lynch Appeal

The **Gazette** printed the story as though all the statements made by the girl were proved. At the same time appeared a letter, signed "A Mother," calling on "the men of the community to show chivalry towards their women in the Southern style, to bend all efforts to make the streets safe again for white girls to walk by making an example of a few Negroes."

The International Labor Defense had attorneys in court to defend Davis, who signed retainers for the I.L.D. The facts unearthed by the I.L.D. attorneys and investigators point to a vicious frame-up.

The doctor who examined Helen Lachut stated that she had obviously had intercourse, but that there were no marks showing violence, and no indication that she had made any resistance. The stories told by Lachut and her escort, Stanley Wojcik, in court, differred greatly in detail. Both admitted, however, that they had made no outcry and had not called for help, although the other couple with whom they were spending the evening were sitting on a park bench only a few yards away.

During the hearing, the attorney for the I.L.D. openly accused Wojcik of having had intercourse with the girl himself, and of concocting the Negro-rape story in order to protect himself and the girl. Wojcik hesitated for a full minute before denying the charge. It was brought out in court that the girl's skirt and stockings were covered with blood, although there were no wounds or bruises, and that it would have been obvious to her family what had happened.

Negro Badly Beaten

On August 1, Davis was standing on a corner near his home when a car drove up and several white men jumped out and came after him. He started to run, because the neighborhood had been the scene of a number of attacks by white men and boys on Negroes. Davis believed that he had been selected for special attack because he had always resented insults and had defended himself.

The white men, who were detectives, captured Davis and took him to jail. They then beat him unmercifully. They broke his nose and refused him all medical attention for a week. When he appeared in court, his shirt was covered with blood. He is in a position to prove that he had not been in the park at all the day of the supposed attack, but was out riding with friends.

The I.L.D. has taken the initiative in forming a Provisional Davis Defense Committee and has already held mass meetings on the case

Daily Worker
8-20-34
New York
N.Y.

North Carolina.

4819

Lynchings-1934

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

OCKY MOUNT, N. C.
TELEGRAM

SEP 4 1934

What Others Say

NEW EVIDENCE

Waiting in state prison for electrocution on October 18 is one Melvin McLaurin, a Negro convicted of criminally attacking a white girl. Doubtless you remember the story: how two girls, who said they did not distinguish his color, stopped and asked him for a ride, drove for some distance thereafter along a thickly settled route, finally to end up in a spot where the older of the girls was, the court found, twice assaulted. Whereafter the two were driven back to the edges of Greensboro and dropped.

Now comes Th: Moore County News bold enough to call attention to a "rather general public belief that the penalty was perhaps excessive." It quotes H. F. Seawell, Jr., lawyer appointed by the state to defend the Negro, who asserts that as matters stand the state is about to take the defendant's life "because all the facts and circumstances were not placed before the jury."

It quotes also a Dr. Taylor of the Greensboro welfare department, who writes the Governor that the victim of the assault had once been convicted on a charge of incestuous relations with her own father, and that he himself had treated her previous to the alleged attack upon her for a venereal disease.

This is not a pretty story, messires, and we are done with it upon the declaration that the state's obligation to protect its womanhood sometimes may be vitiated by the party of the second part.—Charlotte News.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
NEWS

SEP 2 1934

New Evidence.

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SOONER OR LATER.

The Daily News holds no brief whatever for Melvin McLaurin, negro taxi driver, now held without bond at Carthage on a charge of criminal assault upon a young Greensboro girl who, with her still younger sister, accepted a ride in his automobile Saturday night. Such cases are generally dealt with rather summarily in North Carolina courts.

Greensboro

But there are lessons, which may converge into extenuations, in connection with the alleged crime. The two girls, according to their own story, were hitch-hiking from Fayetteville, waved McLaurin's car down and, presumably at their own solicitation, climbed in when he granted their request for a lift. It was dark enough at the time for the two young hitch-hikers not to discern, to continue their version, that their benefactor was a negro. When he subsequently stopped at a filling station, they discovered his race but even then, on the reported assurance that he was a taxi driver and that everything was all right, remained in his car and continued their ride with the results hereinbefore set out.

Surely, against this background, there is recognition that girls, or anybody else, who beg rides, particularly at night, and climb into strangers' cars, strangers who may be either black or white, are not only encouraging but inviting trouble. Whatever they get under such circumstances should be no surprise to themselves or to authorities. The driver who accepts passengers under such circumstances is taking chances enough. But the responsibility of solicitation, if any untoward incidents occur, rests upon the passengers. Legally, there may be no difference, but a common-sense application, concerned primarily with preservation of the peace and the statute, necessarily differentiates.

The Daily News is as concerned as the next one over making the highways safe for person and property; but when anybody's gal-chillun persist in hopping rides, particularly at night, it's only a matter of time until they get somebody in jail for a capital offense.

Daily News
9-11-34

NEGRO IS SOUGHT

North Carolina Posses Scour Woods For Assailant Of Woman

THOMASVILLE, N. C. — (AP) — Scattered groups of searchers headed by deputy sheriffs Friday scoured wooded areas in an effort to pick up the trail of an unidentified Negro who Miss Mary Dorsett, 26-year-old white woman, said criminally attacked her Thursday.

During the search Thursday which lasted most of the day and continued through the night, three Negro suspects were arrested, but when the alleged victim of the attack viewed them at the County Jail, she could identify none as the Negro sought.

The woman said the attack occurred on the premises of her sister's home near here.

North Carolina.

Lynchings-1934

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

4820

SPARTANBURG, S. C.
JOURNAL

AUG 10 1934

Just a Matter of Time

A Greensboro negro taxi driver is being held without bond at Carthage in Moore County, N. C., charged with criminal assault upon a young white girl who with her younger sister accepted a ride in his automobile a few nights ago, according to the Greensboro Daily News.

While the Greensboro exchange does not hold any brief for this negro taxi driver, it editorially states that "there are lessons which may converge into extenuations in connection with the alleged crime." The two girls, according to their own story, were hitch-hiking from Fayetteville and waved down the car which halted and climbed in when their request for a ride was granted. It was too dark at the time for them to discern that their ride provider was a negro, and they continued with him. Subsequently he stopped at a filling station and they discovered his race, but on the reported assurance that he was a taxi driver continued their ride. The results were such as would naturally be expected.

When girls adopt any such method of hitch-hiking by night or daytime, they are looking for trouble. Young girls have no business on the highways hitch-hiking at night or by day. Now and then just such instances of criminal assault are recounted. It would seem that self-preservation, the first law of nature, would prompt any self-respecting girl to refrain from taking any such highway chance, be the motorists white or black. Says the Greensboro paper: "The Daily News is as concerned as the next one over making the highways safe for person and property; but when anybody's galchillun persist in hopping rides, particularly at night, it's only a matter of time until they get somebody in jail for a capital offense."

Negro Held in Attack On Girl Hitch-Hiker

Constitution
8-6-34

ABERDEEN, N. C., Aug. 5.—(AP)—Melvin McLaurin, 25-year-old negro taxi driver of Gibson, was being held in the Carthage jail tonight on charges of having criminally assaulted a 19-year-old Greensboro girl, after the negro had given the girl a ride while she was hitch-hiking.

Atlanta, Ga.

Chief of Police K. G. Deaton said McLaurin confessed to him early this morning that he had attacked the girl twice after he had picked her up near Raeford, as she and her sister, 16 years old, sought a ride to Greensboro.

McLaurin will be given a preliminary hearing in recorder's court at Carthage tomorrow, the officer said.

The two young women, daughters of a well-known family of Greensboro, had been to Fayetteville to sell handkerchiefs they made themselves and were trying to catch rides home late last night.

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RALEIGH, N. C.
TIMES

AUG 6 1934

VICTORIAN CUSTOM SAFER FOR WOMAN HITCH-HIKERS

Who remembers the old day when no respectable woman would venture on a street by night unless accompanied by an escort male?

That social gadget of the Victorian Age looks foolish indeed to the present day of equal rights and utter independence of action by women. The streets became safe to women so soon as they ceased to shudder at negotiating them after dark, and when custom had removed the stigma attaching to those who defied the convention. Man in general is not half so vile as the old assumption used to paint him.

But hitch-hiking by women is another matter. Witness the tragedy that happened to one of two sisters who had been touring the State in the effort to sell handkerchiefs and so contribute to the family larder. Accosting a car, it stopped and they discovered it was being driven by a negro. He reassured and took them on as passengers. In the lonely country he drew a weapon and committed a crime for which, if the girls' story stands up in court, undoubtedly will give him to fry on the electric grid at State's prison.

We make no particular point of the fact that the criminal in question was a negro. Among the nondescript company which run over the highways by day and by night, there are many white men of the same bestial kidney. The point is that young women need to draw a line at the hitch-hike or box-car Pullman travelogue. Social distinctions between the two sexes have been largely obliterated—but it remains forever true that "Male and female created He them!"

SAVE GUILFORD NEGRO FROM ELECTRIC CHAIR

Melvin McLaurin, Under Sentence of Death, Wins Commutation At Raleigh.

Daily News

ACTION IS EXPLAINED

Daily News Bureau and Telegraph Office
406 Wachovia Bank Bldg., Fayetteville St.

Raleigh, Sept. 10.—Melvin McLaurin, Guilford negro, under sentence of death for felony against the chastity of a Guilford white woman, drew a life commutation today from Governor Ehringhaus.

The crime was committed in Moore county and tried there by Judge John H. Clement and Solicitor F. Don Phillips, both of whom ask mercy for him. Herbert F. Seawell, Jr., of Carthage, defended the prisoner, who was convicted at the August term.

9-11-34

Since Pitt county has an almost identical case the action of today may be construed as a partial precedent. In the Pitt case, a white woman who had proved a good courthouse character, turned out to be quite depraved. Ina Jordan, the Guilford girl, got the same character testimony in Moore. Governor Ehringhaus and Parole Commissioner Edwin Gill made some tragic revelations in the course of this petition for clemency. The Jim Moore case in Pitt is almost identical with the McLaurin case. There is one very definite difference, however; Solicitor Don Phillips and Sheriff McDonald, of Moore, help, to save the negro's life. The solicitor and sheriff in Pitt do not appear to be quite so kind.

In giving out reasons today for clemency, the governor and the parole commissioner say:

"I realize that the negro was tried a week after the crime and had no funds and it was necessary for the court to appoint counsel for him on the day of the trial. Since the trial, I have heard a number of reports that if they had been presented in the evidence it might have made the case look different. I am, however, in no position to say this negro is not guilty. I believe that in justice there should be a very thorough investigation of this case before the execution of sentence."

The commissioner of paroles has conducted an investigation and has received information definitely establishing the bad character of the prosecutrix and her sister. This information comes from Mrs. Blanche Carr Sterne, superintendent of public welfare of Guilford county; Dr. Wesley Taylor, of Greensboro; Miss Grace Robson, superintendent of Samarcand Manor; William M. York, judge of the juvenile court of the city of Greensboro, and other responsible persons.

Mrs. Stern has written as follows:

"I have known the Jordan family for years. My first contact was made with them because of complaints from the neighbors that some negro man was hanging around the Jordan home all the time, and especially when Mr. Jordan was not there. I visited the home and in all my years of welfare work I believe I have never seen such a place—disorder, filth, rags and trash reign supreme.

"I think I succeeded in frightening the negro man away, anyway he didn't come to the home any more. My next trouble was school attendance. The neighbors complained because the children were on the street all the while, and the teachers complained when they were made to go to school. All of them seemed to be below par mentally and very hard to control.

"My active work with the Jordan family ceased when the city juvenile court was set up. However, being the chief probation officer, I have kept in contact with the case.

"Ina, the oldest girl, was sent to Samarcand in 1929. She was released from the institution around July, 1931. She was sterilized just after this. Personally, I don't feel that these girls are responsible, and I certainly would hate to see any one condemned to death on their testimony.

"I can conscientiously say that no member of the family is responsible, even in minor matters."

This newly discovered evidence has been brought to the attention of the trial judge, the trial solocitor, and the law enforcement officials of Moore county.

From Judge Clement, I have received the following recommendation:

"I feel that if the character of this woman had been given the jury as it really is the verdict would have in all probability been different. Counsel had no opportunity to investigate the woman's character and the defendant had no money to employ a lawyer.

"I feel that the sentence should be commuted and so recommend."

Solicitor F. Donald Phillips writes:

4820

4820

"Since this man has been tried and convicted, I have received a great deal of reliable information relative to the bad character of the prosecutrix. This information was also received by Judge Clement and we have had a conference in regard to our duty in the light of this information that we have received since the conviction of this man. In consequence of our conference, we both came to the conclusion that in the light of this new information, this man should not be electrocuted and in our opinion his sentence should be commuted to life imprisonment."

Others recommending clemency are Ted L. Frye, managing editor of the Moore County News; W. J. Harrington, register of deeds; John Wilcox, clerk Superior court, and S. R. Hoyle, acting judge of the recorders' court.

Viewed in any light, this is a tragic affair. The deplorable record of the prosecutrix finds its only extenuation in the suggestion that she may be mentally deficient. It appears that the authorities in Guilford have done everything possible to reform the prosecutrix. Judge William York, of the juvenile court, states:

"Before she was released from Samarcand, it was arranged for her to be sterilized and she was placed in a hospital in the city of Greensboro where the operation was performed. After Ina recovered from the operation a good private home was secured for her through the agency of this court, but she refused to stay, ran away, and returned to her home."

"While looking with charity upon the conduct and character of the prosecutrix, common-sense and justice warn us that the death penalty should not be exacted in this case.

"Taking into consideration the newly discovered evidence bearing upon the character of the prosecutrix and relying upon the recommendations of the trial judge, the trial solicitor, and other public officials, I have decided to commute the sentence of death to one of life imprisonment. I do this because I am convinced that the jury would not have found the prisoner guilty of a capital felony if they had had the benefit of full knowledge with respect to the prosecutrix' character and conduct.

"As a part of this formal statement, I wish to commend the enlightened and humane attitude of Judge Clement, Solicitor Phillips and other public officials connected with this case and the fine sense of justice manifested by their recommendations.

"This the 10th day of September, 1934.

"Signed.

"J. C. B. EHRINGHAUS,

"Governor."

Lynchings - 1934

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Ohio.

4821

ILD PLANS TO FIGHT RECENT OHIO RAPE FRAME-UP

Tribune

Youth Grabbed by Foreman Who Accuses Him of Attack Charge

1-26-34

WELLSVILLE, Ohio—Facing a framed charge of "rape!," Robert Harris, 18-year-old Negro, locked up in the county jail at Lisbon, will be defended by the International Labor Defense, it was announced.

Robert, the oldest son and only support of his family, was recently put on a CWA job as water-boy, and his family taken off relief. As he was going to the spring, he passed three young girls on their way to school.

Suddenly a foreman on the job grabbed him and accused him of assaulting one of them, nine years old. The foreman took him to the mayor's office, where a farcial "hearing" was held, without the presence even of the child he was accused of "assaulting."

Persecution Practiced on Youth

In spite of terror and torture, he pleaded not guilty.

This is the second framed charge which has been placed against Harris. On the first he served fourteen months in Mansfield reformatory for "running away from home," a charge his mother, Mrs. Emma Harris, characterized as ridiculous.

Masses of workers, especially on CWA jobs, are being mobilized by the I.L.D. for the defense of Harris.

His defense was an important feature of the Scottsboro protest meeting called in Wellsville, December 28.

Protests against his arrest, and the demand for his release should be sent to Sheriff Frank Ballantine, Lisbon, Ohio, and to Mayor W. H. Daughtery, Wellsville, Ohio.

Lynchings-1934

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Pennsylvania

4822

POLICE SEEK NEGRO WHO ATTACKED GIRL

Assailant Drives Invalid Father Away With Pistol

By United Press.

12-8-34

HARRISBURG, Pa., Dec. 8.—State, city and Steelton police today continued their search for a six-foot Negro who attacked 15-year-old Ruth Leeper, Steelton High School girl, after driving her invalid father away with a pistol.

The father, Clarence J. Leeper, told police the Negro ordered him to "move on," while he held his daughter. Leeper managed to get to a house where he told his story and police were called.

Later the girl was found wandering along a path in the park—half dazed.

Lynchings-1934

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

South Carolina

4823

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
NEWS

MAY 22 1934

Conspicuous Bravery.

A great many circumstances in connection with the attempted lynching of the Greenville, South Carolina, Negro accused of raping a 13-year-old white girl are worth recounting. For one, the mob was getting its faggots and its rope ready in spite of the fact that the suspect was said by the child to look only "a little like him." Even members of a lynching bee should demand more positive identification than that.

For another, the mob managed to maintain its lust for blood at a properly high pitch from dusk until three in the morning, from Greenville unto Gaffney and back again. That is persistence for you.

But what, more than any other incident, is worthy of note is this paragraph in the account of the affair:

"The mob began forming around the [illegible]. Shotguns and rifles were displayed openly as the crowd grew. Several speeches for and against lynching the Negro were made from the steps of the jail."

In South Carolina there are some very brave men but none, we daresay, braver than those who stood on the jail steps in the midst of an armed, blood-thirsty and beside-itself mob and made speeches against lynching.

NEGRO SUSPECT HELD IN ATTACK ON GIRL

BOWMAN, S. C., Aug. 20.—(AP)—David Macon, 45-year-old negro who has been the object of a wide search since an attack on a small white girl three days ago, was lodged in the county jail at Orangeburg today.

The negro surrendered to Sheriff W. A. Dukes without opposition after officers located him.

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Columbia Attorney Scores Whites For Ignoring Law In Racial Cases

COLUMBIA, S.C., Oct. 12—The entire state judiciary, with the exception of the trial judge, comprising the thirteen circuit judges and the State Supreme court, heard the appeal of Clarence Floyd Saturday. Floyd, convicted in Lexington county on September 15, 1933, of alleged criminal assault on a white woman, was given a death sentence.

10-12-34

First argued before the Supreme court on June 12, Chief Justice Eugene S. Blease issued the order for the rehearing after Attorney N. J. Frederick of this city, asserted at the first hearing before the Supreme court that "It is the tendency of juries in South Carolina and this section to convict in these cases irrespective of the testimony."

Attorney Frederick has been assured by many white lawyers that his conclusion had not been overdrawn when he told the court, in a valiant effort to save his client's life:

"This condition is going to remain unless the courts say that unless you come up with a straight-forward and direct story of what happened, we are not going to take a man's life for this crime."

The white woman in the case was out riding with a married salesman on the night of the alleged attack and reported later to the police she had been assaulted by "a Colored man." Floyd, pleading innocence and an alibi, was convicted and has since been in the state penitentiary here awaiting execution.

NEGRO SUSPECT HELD IN ATTACK ON GIRL

BOWMAN, S. C., Aug. 20.—(AP)—David Macon, 45-year-old negro who

Lynchings-1934
Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Tennessee.

4824

CONFESSIONS PROVEN

Commercial Appeal

Knife Found on Assaulter Belonged to Girl's Uncle

1-2-34

TRIO IS BEING HELD HERE

Memphis, Tenn.

Sergt. A. O. Cark Uncovers Tip Leading to Captures

Three negroes confessed to criminally assaulting Mildred Collins, 16-year-old Holly Springs High School girl, following their arrest here by Memphis detectives yesterday.

Their confessions, made separately after questioning by police, were corroborated in every detail.

They are:

Ernest McGhee, 23, of 53 West Trigg.

Johnny Jones, 23, of 1396 Erie, and

Isaac Howard, 25, of 1347 Erie.

Captured after one of the most intensive manhunts in this section, the negroes admitted both the assault and the robbery of the girl's uncle and aunt last Wednesday night.

All were surprised and captured in their homes at 4 o'clock yesterday morning.

Officials to Confer

The negroes are being held in Shelby County jail.

The negroes calmly related how they held up the automobile occupied by G. A. Collins and Mrs. Ruth C. Jackson and their niece, Miss Collins, at East Parkway and Lamar and forced Mr. Collins to drive south on a lonely road just across the Mississippi line, where each of the negroes assaulted the school girl.

On the way there they robbed Mr. Collins and Mrs. Ruth Jackson of about $14 in cash and forced Mrs. Jackson to write checks for $100 and for $25.

The car ran out of gasoline, but while one stood guard over their captives the other two pushed the automobile to a filling station, bought some gasoline and continued their journey.

To Hernando for Trial

The three negroes will be tried at Hernando, but they will not be removed to DeSoto County until Governor Conner of Mississippi makes a formal requisition on Governor McAlister for the prisoners.

This was decided last night at a conference between Attorney General McLain, Sheriff Bacon, Sheriff W. M. Birmingham of DeSoto County and Gerald W. Chatham, DeSoto County attorney.

Sheriff Bacon said the formality of obtaining requisition papers for the three would take three or four days.

Earlier in the day General McLain conferred with Fred Belk, district attorney of Holly Springs, who came to Memphis to find out if the assault took place in his county.

The possibility of a trial in Shelby County was discussed, it was learned, although the negroes' confessions revealed the actual assault took place in DeSoto County. Lawyers said that in at least one decision the U. S. supreme court has held that where a crime is begun in one state and consummated in another, trial may be legally had in the first state.

Work on Tip

Working on a tip uncovered by Detective Sergt. A. O. Clark, Detective Sergeants W. T. Pilkinton, Bill Raney and Pete Weibenga surrounded the homes of the negroes simultaneously.

Officers Ernest Johnson, Pilkinton, Wilbur Miller, A. L. Moore, and W. D. Stallings broke down the doors of Howard's home, 1347 Erie, and took him without resistance.

At the same time, Officers Rainey, Clark, Weibenga, Bill Hagan and John Getz captured Jones at 1306 Erie. He was taken by surprise and made no effort to escape. Both negroes were captured in their beds.

Thirty minutes later, all the officers surrounded the home of McGehee, the most dangerous of the trio. Aroused by the officers the negro darted behind a large iron stove and leveled a pistol at the officers, but Sergeant Miller covered the negro with a machine gun and McGehee surrendered.

Sergeant Clark searched McGehee and took a knife from him, which was identified by Mr. Collins as the one he had been carrying for about a year. The knife, a cheap bone handle pocket knife, had two broken blades.

Unusual Procedure

Working under an unusual procedure, Mr. Collins, under the direction of Inspector Griffin, questioned the negroes. McGehee was the first to confess. The other two negroes followed. They confessed before J. C. Schakerford, Fred M. Belk, district attorney, and Deputy A. H. Hill, all of Holly Springs and Lieut. Lee Quianthy and Inspector Griffin.

"We had been standing at the corner of Lamar and Parkway a little while," McGehee said. "When the car stopped we got in and I made them drive south for about two miles then I drove the car to a little piece past the state line and we stopped and I robbed them.

"They didn't have much money so we made them write some checks.

"After we had robbed them Howard took the girl in a field. She followed him back and then I went with her."

McGehee said that following the crime they went to Howard's home on Erie and split up the money. The next day he tried to get the $25 check cashed, but failed. Then the negroes decided to burn the checks.

Commercial Appeal 1-2-34

Rob Dr. James

Inspector Griffin said that the negroes also confessed to robbing Dr. E. A. James about two weeks ago. The officers found a watch on McGehee which Dr. James identified.

Memphis, Tenn.

The officers also found a quantity of merchandise and other articles which had been taken from the Hilderbrand store near Whitehaven.

"It is one of the finest pieces of work that I have ever seen," Commissioner Davis said. "The officers have been on the job for four days and they have gotten very little sleep. They are to be congratulated and they will be given a week's vacation with pay for their excellent work in cleaning up one of the most ruthless crimes that has been committed in our city."

Shortly after the negroes had confessed they were removed to the fifth floor of the Shelby County jail under a guard of about 25 officers. A crowd of about 100 citizens followed the officers. About half of the crowd were from Mississippi. All gates and doors to the jail were locked and extra precaution taken to prevent visitors from entering.

Mrs. Jackson was overwhelmed when told that the negroes had been arrested and had confessed.

"O, I'm so glad! I wish I had some money so I could give you what you deserve," Mrs. Jackson told Sergeant Clark.

No member of the Memphis police department will share in the rewards of more than $300 offered for information leading to the arrest of the negroes, Chief Will Lee said.

"I cannot reveal who will get the reward, but it will not be a member of the police department," he said. "All I can tell you is, that it will be divided between two persons."

Negroes Confess Assault on Girl

Three Arrested by Memphis Police and Admit Crime

Telegraph
Macon, Ga.
1-2-34

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Jan. 1. (AP)—Detective Inspector Will T. Griffin said late today that three Negroes accused of criminally attacking a 17-year-old Mississippi girl near here Wednesday were under arrest and that all had signed written confessions.

Griffin identified them as Ernest McGhee, 23, Johnny Jones, 23, and Isaac Howard, 25. All live here.

A knife, identified by G. A. Collins of New Albany, Miss., the girl's uncle, as one taken from him by the Negroes who attacked his niece was found on McGhee, Inspector Griffin said. A watch taken from Dr. E. A. James in a hold-up about two weeks ago, was also recovered, he said, as well as some merchandise stolen from a Whitehaven, Tenn., store recently.

The purported confessions also included admissions of robbing Collins and Mrs. Ruth Jackson, the girl's aunt, Griffin said.

Three Negro Suspects In Brutal Attack Confess

Advertiser

MEMPHIS, TENN., Jan. 1.—(AP)—Detective Inspector Will T. Griffin said late today that three negroes accused of criminally attacking a 17-year-old Mississippi girl near here Wednesday were under arrest and that all had signed written confessions.

1-2-34

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Montgomery, Ala.

All live here.

A knife, identified by G. A. Collins, of New Albany, Miss., the girl's uncle, as one taken from him by the negroes who attacked his niece was found on McGhee Inspector Griffin said. A watch, taken from Dr. E. A. James in a holdup about two weeks ago, also was recovered, he said, as well as some merchandise stolen from a White Haven, Tenn., store recently.

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3 NEGROES ADMIT ASSAULT ON GIRL

Extradition To Be Rushed For Attackers Of 17-Year-Old

Mississippi Girl

Advertiser
1-3-34
Montgomery, Ala.

MEMPHIS, TENN., Jan. 2—(AP)—Three negroes remained under guard at the strong Shelby County Jail here today following their purported confessions to attacks on a 17-year-old girl as the governors of two States agreed to expedite plans for their removal to Hernando, Miss., for trial.

Gov. Sennett Conner, of Mississippi, announced at Jackson that he would issue a requisition for the negroes as soon as Deputy Sheriff Angus Dees arrived there from Hernando with the necessary petition. Gov. Hill McAlister said at Nashville he would honor the Mississippi petition by signing extradition papers when Dees reaches the Tennessee capital.

Dees then will obtain custody of the prisoners from Sheriff W. J. Bacon, here. It may be two or three days before Dees removes his prisoners, to the De Soto County Jail at Hernando.

Sheriff W. M. Birmingham, of Hernando said that when the negroes are moved he expects no trouble, either from citizens of De Soto County, in which the attacks occurred, or from citizens of Marshall County, in which the girl lives. If any trouble develops that he feels he can't handle, he said he would call upon Governor Conner for national guard troops.

The girl, a resident of Holly Springs, Miss., was attacked Dec. 27, after three negroes boarded an automobile in which she was riding with an aunt and an uncle.

Inspector Will T. Griffin announced yesterday that the negroes identified by him as Ernest McGhee, 23; Johnny Jones, 23, and Isaac Howard, 25, had signed written confessions of attacking the girl and robbing her uncle and an aunt. The attacks, officers say, occurred half a mile over the Tennessee-Mississippi line, giving Mississippi jurisdiction over the case.

NEGROES STAY HERE; MOB SPIRIT COOLING

Commercial Appeal

Girlfs' Attackers May Not Be Returned This Week

1-4-34

Legal details will probably hold Ernest McGhee, Johnny Jones and Isaac Howard, the three negroes who confessed to criminally assaulting Miss Mildred Collins of Holly Springs, Dec. 27, as prisoners in the Shelby County jail over the week-end.

Memphis, Tenn.

The extradition papers under which they will be turned over to Mississippi authorities may not arrive from Nashville before Saturday, though they were on the way to Governor McAlister yesterday.

Three Negroes Confess Assault at Memphis

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Jan. 1.—(AP)—Detective Inspector Will T. Griffin said late today that three negroes accused of criminally attacking a 17-year-old Mississippi girl near here Wednesday, were under arrest and that all had signed written confessions.

1-2-34

Griffin identified them as Ernest McGhee, 23; Johnny Jones, 23, and Isaac Howard, 25. All live here.

Plans for a legal trial and execution in Mississippi went forward yesterday, as Sheriff Bacon conferred with Sheriff Birmingham, of DeSoto County and Sheriff Jones of Marshall County. The crime occurred over the line in DeSoto County, so that the trial and executions are scheduled to take place at Hernando.

Hope to Thwart Mob

Miss Collins lives in Marshall County and the mob feeling which authorities are planning to thwart is in Marshall County. Every day of delay is expected to reduce the possibility of mob action, however.

Meantime it developed that if there is a trial the frequently used "third degree defense" will be heard. In his jail cell McGhee, who has been called the "brains" of the gang, told a reporter that he had been beaten by officers.

McGehee has a long scar on his left jaw and another on his right temple. A reporter asked him yesterday where he got the scars.

"The officers beat me over there," McGhee declared, but he said he didn't know who the officers were, and offered no details of the beating.

The appearance of the scars does not bear out his story. They appear to be old wounds, while McGhee was arrested only Monday.

McGhee is 23, a native of Raines, near the Mississippi line, who was working for the CWA at ditching, until his arrest. He is a dark negro, about five feet 10 inches tall, and weighs 175 pounds or more.

Howard a Giant

Howard is a big, black negro, who would be described by many as "mean looking." He stands nearly six feet three inches tall, has high cheek bones, with hollow cheeks, and is 25 years old. He is a native of Potts Camp. Howard is credited with being the "muscle man" for the negro gang in the series of robberies to which they have confessed. Most of the robberies included hitting the victims on the head with a pistol.

Jones is a native of Victoria, near Byhalia, Miss. He is about five feet nine inches tall, medium weight, and is also black skinned. Jones says he has worked in Memphis eight years.

To the long string of holdups confessed by the negroes was added yesterday the holdup of L. C. Sharp, negro principal of Douglas School, Dec. 6. Sharp was held up at Fourth and Vance and taken below Whitehaven where he was robbed of about $8 and his rented automobile. He was struck in the face and left to walk seven miles to a telephone.

Sharp went to the jail yesterday and after talking with McGhee, Jones and Howard, reported that they had each admitted that they were the ones who held him up.

STOP, THESE ATTACKS

To The, Commercial Appeal:

Thank you so much for your editorial, "Stop These Attacks."

Commercial Appeal

From the heart of a mother of a beautiful 15-year-old daughter comes this letter.

I live in mental terror from the time she leaves for school until her safe return. I who have lived, as has my ancestors always in the south, have lived to see the day when my daughter is not safe from harm when she is on the street.

Memphis Tenn

1-31-34

~~2-4-34~~

I beg of you raise your mighty voice against this condition.

Most truly yours,
MRS. KENNETH DICKEY
Memphis.

Stop These Attacks

At one o'clock Tuesday afternoon on Bellevue, just south of Union, a high school girl was attacked by a negro and escaped after a struggle.

Commercial Appeal

At 8:15 o'clock Tuesday morning a young woman employe of Sears-Roebuck was chased by a negro man as she was walking on Montgomery south of Overton Park.

Parents have complained to the police that negroes have attempted to lure their children into automobiles.

~~2-4-34~~

2-5-34

During the past seven days negroes have made nine attempts to molest women or children.

Memphis Tenn

One mother, whose child a negro endeavored to lure into an automobile, called us to ask how fear and horror can be taken out of the hearts of the mothers in Memphis. The answer is that the police will and can do it.

We do not know what methods will be necessary, but these attacks have got to stop and a sense of security restored.

Stories of such attacks have been printed with sufficient frequency to put the police on notice. Unless it is stopped the inevitable consequence will be the commission of a crime that will inflame the entire community. The blame will rest with the police where it belongs.

Reidsville, N. C. Review
January 24, 1934

"HANDLED IN A VERY QUIET MANNER"

A negro in Tennessee, acquitted of an attack on an eleven-year-old white girl was lynched the other day, and it is quite probable that his judges were correct in their findings.

But that mattered nothing to a lynching party. The fact that he was a suspect was sufficient for mob law. There is a note almost of commendation in the official report of the sheriff that it was "handled in a very quiet manner."

MOTHER CONVINCES JUDGE

Commercial Appeal

Negro Bound Over On Attempted Criminal Assault Charge

A plea to City Judge Fitzhugh to "put yourself in a mother's place," caused John Carter, negro, to be bound over to the state on an attempted criminal assault charge yesterday.

3-29-34

Judge Fitzhugh had fined the negro $50 for indecent exposure on the complaint of a mother living on Pontotoc. She testified that the negro had also attempted to persuade her 10-year-old child to enter a vacant building with him.

"I think he should be sent before the grand jury, judge," she said. Put yourself in a mother's place. Wouldn't you want that man to be sentenced to the limit."

The fine was reduced to $25 and the attempted criminal assault added when the negro was bound to the state.

OFFICER KILLS NEGRO HELD FOR ASSAULT

Constitution

Atlanta Ga

MEMPHIS, Tenn., July 9.—(AP)—A negro held as Melvin Randolph, 23, en route to Tiptonville, Tenn., for trial on a charge of attacking a 15-year-old girl, was shot to death late last night by the officer who had him in custody.

Sheriff W. C. Haynes, of Lake county, said today that he was forced to kill the negro on a highway near Frayser Station when the negro attacked him.

REPORTER BEATEN OR BY ARKANSAS OFFICER

Commercial Appeal

Al Capley Threatened With Death by Constable

Memphis Tenn

TWO MEN COVERING STORY

Commercial Appeal Staff Members Sought Information From Culp Regarding Criminal Assault of Young Woman

BY AL CAPLEY
Commercial Appeal Staff Correspondent

WEST MEMPHIS, Ark., July 28.—I was beaten, kicked and threatened with death tonight by Constable C. C. Culp when I went to his home here in an effort to learn details of a criminal assault on a young woman by two negroes that occurred beneath the Harahan bridge, on the Arkansas shore, early this morning.

I have no personal grievance with Constable Culp. I had never met him before, but was surprised at his voice on long distance when I had called him in reference to the assault before driving to West Memphis with Wilson Murrah, a member of The Commercial Appeal sports department.

He was very surly over the telephone and referred me to Sheriff Curlin, who could not be located in his office at Marion at the time.

When Murrah and I reached West Memphis, we made a few preliminary inquiries and then I went to Constable Culp's home, seeking further details, as Sheriff Curlin was not handy.

A young man was seated on the constable's porch. I inquired if Mr. Culp was there and the young man obligingly went inside the house to get him.

Constable Culp appeared on the porch almost immediately and I met him in the drive of his home, where he had parked the car.

"Mr. Culp," I said, introducing myself, "I want to find out something about this assault."

"Aren't you the man who telephone me a few minute ago?" he asked, advancing with a scowl.

"Yes, I am," I said.

"Well, I told you to see the sheriff," he said, and I saw he was shaking with anger.

"I don't know what your grievance, is Mr. Culp," I told him. "But let's talk this thing over like gentlemen and not get mad about it."

See the Sheriff!

He started shrieking, "I told you to see the sheriff." I saw he was in no mood to be talked to, and started moving away. I had been ill for three days with malaria and didn't feel like a fight.

But just as I started off, he slapped me so hard it dazed me. Murrah tried to grab him, to keep him from hitting me again, and I started to the car.

Out of the corner of my eye, I saw him run to his own car, also parked in the drive, and come back with a pistol. He started shouting: "I'll kill you, damn you. I'll shoot the hell out of you."

About this time I had reached the car and was getting in when he kicked me so hard I fell forward in the machine. Then he backed away and we were allowed to drive off—as he kept shouting threats.

I understand that treatment of an even worse order was recently administered J. B. Terrell, Memphis negro, when he was arrested on a traffic charge. The negro charged that Constable Arch Graham beat him over the head with a pistol butt and then with a hammer.

Out-of-state motorists have complained that Crittenden officers were laying speed traps and were charging "fees" over the toll free viaduct as part of a money grabbing racket. These charges have been denied by the officers involved.

BLOODHOUNDS ON TRAIL

Commercial Appeal

Seek Negro Pair Who Attacked Pulaski Girl

PULASKI, Tenn., Sept. 18.—(INS)—Bloodhounds today were put on the trail of two negroes who yesterday attacked a young girl as her youthful escort was held at bay with a shotgun.

9-19

Ben Brownlow, 16, and the girl, 14, were returning from a rural box supper in the former's car when they were held up by the negroes. Brownlow was forced to leave the highway and drive into a secluded lane, where the girl was attacked after her clothes were stripped from her body.

Memphis Tenn

Tennessee.

4826

Lynchings-1934
&
Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

JUSTICE AGAIN

East Tennessee News
9-20-34

Justice for the Negro comes to the fore again and this time 'Squire R. H. Gettys, of Athens, Tennessee, refused to hold a Negro youth on the serious charge of attacking a white woman when he heard what he terms "unreasonable testimony" of the woman.

According to reports, the white woman, Mrs. Martie Nelson, age 22, told that Virgil Douglas, the Negro youth, while in the role of a delivery boy, brought an order of groceries to her house. She testified he forced his attentions on her, under threat of death, and further told that she was forced to meet the Negro youth at night, while her husband slept. "He (the Negro) would whistle and I would meet him near our house," the woman testified, and in dismissing the case the magistrate commented, "I do not consider the testimony reasonable." Knoxville, Tenn.

Such just decisions in matters involving Negroes as this one at Athens and the vigorous prosecution of the white men who killed the Negro at Manchester, indicate marked progress in the administering of justice and will surely go far toward creating more respect for the courts of our land.

LAWYER HELD FOR BRIBERY ATTEMPT

Post

Effort Is Made To Fix Girl Scottsboro Witness

10-1-34

By United Press.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Oct. 1.—Dan Shriftman, alias Swift, said to be a New York city lawyer was held in Davidson county jail today at the request of Alabama authorities who suspected him of participating in a plot to bribe Victoria Price, star state witness in the Scottsboro case, who accused the defendant negroes of attacking her and a girl companion.

Shriftman and a companion, Sol Cohn, alias Kong, were arrested yesterday soon after they arrived here on a chartered plane from Cincinnati and registered at a hotel.

Huntsville, Ala. officers requested the arrests on information gained from an unnamed person arrested there Saturday in connection with the alleged bribery plot.

Cohn, identified as a New York lawyer who attended the Scottsboro trials, was being held while county officials conferred with Cincinnati police.

Tennessee Negro Held For Assault

Advertiser

SHELBYVILLE, TENN., Nov. 19.—(AP)—A crowd described as "about a couple of hundred people" loaded into automobiles before the city hall tonight to go to Murfreesboro, Tenn., after E. K. Harris, negro charged with ravishing a 14-year-old white school girl near here today.

11-20-34

The negro was taken from the city jail shortly after his arrest about 7 p.m. and rushed away towards Murfreesboro where he was to be placed in the Rutherford County Jail for safekeeping.

At Murfreesboro he was turned over to Rutherford county officers, Bill Workman and Richmond Jones, deputies sheriff, who took him to the Davidson County Jail at Nashville, reaching there at 9:30 p.m.)

City Policeman A. F. Hamilton, who aided in the apprehension of the alleged attacker, described the crowd milling before the city hall.

"There's about a couple of hundred out there now loading in cars going to Murfreesboro," he said. "A good many have already gone."

ASSAULT DAMAGES ASKED BY REPORTER

Commercial Appeal

Papers in $20,000 Suit Served On C. C. Culp in Hospital

8-9-34

AL CAPLEY BRINGS ACTION

Memphis, Tenn.

West Memphis Constable, Brought Here In Private Car in Alcoholic Condition, Only 'Grunts' On Receiving Notice

Abed in a local hospital to which he was admitted in an alcoholic condition, Constable C. C. Culp of West Memphis was served with papers yesterday in a $20,000 damage suit brought by Al R. Capley, reporter for The Commercial Appeal.

Capley's suit was filed in federal court yesterday by Fitzhugh, Murrah & Fitzhugh, attorneys, as an outgrowth of the assault made upon him Saturday, July 28.

Culp was taken to the Memphis hospital in a private car at 9:30 o'clock yesterday morning. The papers were served on him later by Deputy U. S. Marshal J. L. Berg.

"Odor of Whisky Strong"

"The odor of whisky was very strong in the room," Mr. Berg said afterward. "Culp grunted when I handed him the papers."

In his suit, Capley declares that he called to see Culp in his capacity as a newspaper reporter for the purpose of making legitimate and proper inquiry and that he did so in a respectful and courteous manner.

"The defendant without any excuse or justification cursed, abused and assaulted him, striking him with great force and violence, drew his pistol and stuck it into plaintiff's side, forced him into his automobile, and when he was in the act of getting into the car defendant kicked him with great violence," the bill states.

"At the time plaintiff was patently unwell, he had been off duty for nearly a week and defendant well knew plaintiff's condition. As a result of the outrageous assault and battery committed upon plaintiff by defendant, plaintiff was greatly hurt, bruised and wounded and put in great peril, subjected to severe shock, and afterward was sick, sore and disordered and remained so for a long time, to-wit: from the date on which said unprovoked attack, assault and battery was committed down to the present time, during all of which time plaintiff has suffered great physical pain and mental anguish, and was prevented from properly and efficiently attending to and transacting his necessary business affairs."

Attack "Unjustified"

Capley says he was forced to pay out sums of money in an endeavor to be cured of "bruises, wounds, soreness, lameness and disorders occasioned by the defendant," charging that the attack "so made by the defendant both with pistol and with his hands and feet was wholly unjustified and without any provocation of any character or kind; that it showed an utter disregard of all social obligations and of the rights of the plaintiff and that said attack was so gross and wanton as to entitle plaintiff not only to compensatory but to punitive damages as well."

As reporter for The Commercial Appeal, Capley had been sent to West Memphis to get a story concerning a criminal attack made upon a woman tourist by two negroes. He was attacked by Culp when he asked the officer for information regarding the crime.

Efforts to reach Sheriff Howard Curlin at Marion yesterday to inquire regarding the official status of Constable Culp in view of his condition at a Memphis hospital were of no avail.

It was stated at the sheriff's office that Curlin was "out of town" and that no one knew where he had gone.

Lynchings-1934

Virginia

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

4827

White Woman Frames Colored Man

On May 1st a white man who hails from the deep South and evidently is well schooled in the art of bullying Negroes and railroading them to jail came to the Petersburg Hotel and had an altercation with Reuben Patanni, a colored employee. In the fight the clerk separated them before either could inflict any physical injury upon the other. This angered the white man who swore that he would kill Patanni or pay a some one else to do it, as no judge would punish a white man for killing a "nigger."

The white man left, but came back and made so many threats that Patanni was advised not to return to work that evening. However, he returned and while going about his duties he was suddenly attacked by the white man who had crept in the building, and assaulted with an ice-water pitcher. The white man again threatened the colored man and again advised him that the judge would do nothing to him for killing a "nigger." Patanni then had the white man arrested.

White Woman Demands Warrant Be Withdrawn

Later on the same day, a white woman came to see Patanni and demanded that the warrant be withdrawn, or she would frame up the story of an insult. This he refused to do. Shortly afterwards he was arrested for insulting this woman.

In court, this woman could not say what language Patanni used, but said the offense occurred the week before. She also was unable to explain to the satisfaction of the judge, why she waited so long before having a warrant issued. The white man was put under bond for 90 days and went to jail. Patanni went back to the hotel.

VIRGINIA avengers burned the house in which a Negro rapist lived. The house belonged to another Negro who had nothing to do with his tenant's crime and we are curious to know how burning it helped any—if it did.

Legal Lynch Plans Pushed In Virginia

Daily Worker

11-22-34

New York

CLIFTON FORGE, Va., Nov. 21 —Preparations for the legal lynching of a Negro woman and three

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Killing of Two Girls Confessed by Negro

CLIFTON FORGE, Va., Nov. 19 (AP)—The whereabouts of Philip Jones, 25-year-old negro who officers said had made full confession to the brutal slaying of two little white girls after one of them had been criminally attacked, was a closely guarded police secret tonight.

11-20

Early this morning a searching party found the bodies of Alice B. Hill, 13, and her sister, Ellen, 9, in a gully near the Jones home about a mile and a half from Clifton Forge.

Jones, his wife, Chester Smith Jr., 23, and John Pryor, all negroes, were placed under arrest and hurried to Roanoke as news of the crime spread and public indignation here rose to a high pitch.

Negro Confesses To Attack In Virginia

RICHMOND, Va.— (AP) —Phillip Jones, 25-year-old Negro, was lodged in Henrico County Jail here Tuesday after Henrico County officers said he made a full oral confession to the murder of two young Clifton Forge girls, Alice and Ellen Hill.

11-21-3

Henrico County officials said early Tuesday that Jones would be held here for several days, until high feeling in Clifton Forge subsided sufficiently to permit his safe return there to face the charge of murder.

Negro men arrested in connection with the murder last Sunday of two local white girls, were being pushed through rapidly today, despite the previous announcement by local authorities claiming they had obtained a confession from one of the men, in which he exonerated the other three defendants of any connection with the crime.

The alleged confession is said to have been made by Philip Jones tenant farmer, who was originally accused of waylaying the two girls while they were returning from delivering a message to his home. The new version concocted today by local authorities is that the two girls were murdered in Jones' home by the "gin-mad Negroes."

In addition to Jones, those threatened with legal murder through a vicious frame-up, are his wife Chester Smith and John Pryor. Several attempts have been made by gangs to lynch the defendants, who were removed to the county jail at Richmond, Va., after armed bands attempted to take them out of the local jail at Roanoke, Va.

NEGRO JAILED AS MURDERER OF TWO GIRLS

11-29-34

Virginia Authorities Say Prisoner Has Confessed He Killed Children

THREE OTHERS ARE HELD

Whereabouts of Prisoner Carefully Guarded as Public Indignation Rises

CLIFTON FORGE, Va., Nov. 19 (AP)—The whereabouts of Philip Jones, 25-year-old Negro who officers said had made full confession to the brutal slaying of two little white girls after one of them had been criminally attacked, was a closely guarded police secret tonight.

Early this morning a searching party found the bodies of two sisters, one 13 and the other 9, in a gully near the Jones home about a mile and a half from Clifton Forge.

Jones, his wife, Chester Smith, Jr., 23, and John Pryor, all Negroes, were placed under arrest and hurried to Roanoke as news of the crime spread and public indignation here rose to a high pitch.

During the day Clifton Forge officers, who questioned the prisoners with assistance of Roanoke city police announced first that Jones had confessed to slaying one of the girls but accused Smith, who emphatically denied it, of killing the other.

Later announcement was made that Jones had made full confession to the double slaying and almost immediately two automobiles carrying heavily armed police guards sped away from Roanoke, taking the four prisoners to a destination kept secret even from the accompanying officers who left under sealed orders.

Children's Heads Crushed

The children whose parents live in Clifton Forge, became objects of an organized search after they failed to return to their home last night. Sunday afternoon they had gone to the Jones home in response to a telephone request from the Negro that they tell his wife he would not be home until late.

The bodies were found together early this morning, both with their heads crushed in. The older girl's hands were tied with fodder twine; her body was covered with bruises and Coroner Louis A. Houff announced that she had been ravished.

Under the Jones home, only a hundred yards away, searchers found a shotgun with its stock broken and bloodstained. Jones, when arrested, was suffering from a gunshot wound in one leg below the knee which he said was accidentally inflicted.

Smith said he had taken Jones to near his home in a taxicab Sunday afternoon but had not approached within a half mile of the house.

Negro's House Is Burned

The Negro tenant house on the Scott farm near here ocupied by Jones was burned down tonight.

Night Desk Sergeant S. H. Cahoon of the Clifton Forge police department said he did not know and would not express an opinion as to whether the fire was incendiary in origin.

He said there was a crowd of persons which he estimated to number 250 on the streets of Clifton Forge tonight, and that "some talk had been heard of agitation among the crowd for a general advance on the Negro section of the town.

He said city officials had talked to the crowd, however, and that the crowd had dwindled considerably.

11-20-34

Charlotte, N. C. Observer

November 21, 1934

RACE PROTECTION.

The monstrous crime near Clifton Forge, Va., in which two little girls were brutally murdered, opens opportunity for the negro leaders, including preachers and teachers, to accept a positive duty. As a matter of course the race is not to be held responsible for the crimes of individual negroes, and it is for the negro leaders in defense of the race, to cry aloud in denunciation of crime like that which has just shocked the country. The race should be warned to protect itself from occurrences of the kind—to save itself from the pestilential consequences of crime of any kind—for it is the deeds of the few that bring the whole race into discredit. The negro preachers could exert a powerful influence in saving the race from responsibility for these acts of criminality, and they should raise their voices in every pulpit in guidance of their people into ways that lead away from crime. Like opportunity is at hand for negro school teachers. These leaders should become active in an anti-crime campaign if for no other reason than for protection of their race.

NEGRO ARRESTED IN DEATH OF CHILDREN

Advertiser

Virginia Girls, 13 And 9, Found In Ditch With Skulls Battered

11-20-34

CLIFTON FORGE, VA., Nov. 19.—(AP) —Their skulls battered in by a brutal slayer after the older child had been ravished, the bodies of Alice B. Hill, 13, and her sister, Ellen, 9, were found early this morning, side by side in a rain-washed gulley.

Montgomery Ala.

Almost immediately officers arrested Philip Jones, 25-year-old negro, near whose home the bodies were found. His wife, and Chester Smith and John Pryor, both negroes, also were arrested.

Rushed to Roanoke, 65 miles away, to avoid any possibility of violence at the hands of outraged citizens, Jones was reported later in the day as having made a full confession to the double slaying. Simultaneously with this announcement, the four prisoners were hurried out of Roanoke with two automobile loads of armed officers who acted under sealed orders and did not themselves know their final destination.

"The feeling is running so high here tonight that even I don't know where they have carried the prisoners," said Commonwealth's Atty. M. J. Putnam.

Eluded Irate Public.

"We were fortunate enough to get the prisoners away from here before the public generally knew what had happened."

The commonwealth's attorney said that from the information he had been able to gather, coupled with a "complete confession by Jones," his theory was that "Jones murdered the little girls to cover up the attack."

Quoting from memory, the commonwealth's attorney said Jones told him in the alleged confession that he had telephoned the home of the children asking that his home be notified that he would be late returning.

The children went to the negro's home, "I suppose because it was nearby and they knew the Jones negroes," said the commonwealth's attorney.

"Soon after Jones went home," said Putnam, "he told me that he suggested to the children that they had better hurry home, and soon after they left, overtook and waylaid them."

Putnam said he had conferred with C. B. Collins, commonwealth's attorney of Alleghany County, where the bodies were found, and Collins had said he would ask Judge Benjamin Haden to call a special session of the grand jury to investigate the murders. No date was fixed, he said, because there had not been an opportunity to confer with the judge.

The Clifton Forge commonwealth's attorney said Jones told him first that Chester Smith, Jr., another negro, killed the children.

Negro Tells Three Stories.

Later, Putnam said, Jones asserted that Smith killed one of the children and he killed the other. Finally, Putnam said, Jones confessed that he killed both of the children.

Jones and Smith, Jones's wife, and another negro, John Pryor, were being held tonight, but Putnam said he thought the woman and one of the negro men would be released.

The Hill children, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Hill, of Clifton Forge, became objects of an organized search after they failed to return to their home last night. Sunday afternoon they had gone to the Jones home in response to a telephoned request from the negro that they tell his wife he would not be home until late.

The bodies were found together early this morning, both with their heads crushed in. The older girl's hands were tied with fodder twine; her body was covered with bruises and Coroner Louis A. Houff said she had been ravished.

Under the Jones home, only a hundred yards away, searchers found a shotgun with its stock broken and bloodstained. Jones, when arrested, was suffering from a gunshot wound in one leg below the knee which he said was accidentally inflicted. Smith said he had taken Jones to within a half a mile of his home in a taxicab Sunday afternoon but had not approached the house.

The girls were members of a family of 17 children, 12 of whom are living. Arrangements were made to hold their funeral services here tomorrow morning.

GAZETTE

Lexington, Va

NOV 2 1934

With Other Editors

THE NEGRO JONES

The guilt of the Negro Philip Jones, held in the Richmond jail for the murder of two little wihte girls at Clifton Forge, has been established by the man's own confession as well as by the testimony of his wife. He admits having criminally attacked the older of the two girls before clubbing them to death with his gun. The sooner he is hailed into court and dealt with as prescribed by law, the better for society and the better for future law observance.

A Richmond attorney was to have conferred with Jones yesterday at the request of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Beyond seeing that the man is accorded his legal rights the N. A. A. C. P. will do well to keep out of this case. It is not going to help the colored people one bit for any attempt to be made to interpose legal obstacles in the path of swift and summary justice.

We are persuaded that the leaders of the colored race in Virginia have not the slightest desire that Jones shall escape the consequences of his act. They will rightly deplore any step by the N. A. A. C. P. which may have even the appearance of attempting to stand between Philip Jones and inexorable justice.—Roanoke Times.

PETERSBURG, VA.
PROGRESS INDEX

NOV 24 19[illegible]

In Behalf Of The Negroes

THE ROANOKE *Times* says in commenting upon a letter from A. J. Oliver, a colored attorney of that city, on the subject of the recent murder of two little girls at Clifton Forge, that the sentiments expressed in the communication are those which "all decent and self-respecting members of the "Negro race entertain." Attorney Oliver declared that "The "members of my race who are striving to live decent, respect-"able and law-abiding lives feel crushed and saddened when "a crime such as this is committed by a member of our race." Lawyer Oliver describes the murderer as "simply a mad dog." *The Times* says in commenting: "In the breasts of all mem-"bers of the Negro race in Roanoke and throughout this sec-"tion, responsible men and women who are endeavoring amid "difficulties and discouragement to lead their people on-"ward and upward there is a saddening realization" that a terrible blow has been struck at the work of years in creating better relations between the two races. "To condemn a race "for the action of one is cruelly, monstrously unfair," says *The Times,* adding "and for that matter, not all beasts in hu-"man form have black skins." *The Times* editorial concludes: "Now is the time for all friends of the Negro race to speak "a word in their behalf. Such a word is needed. Moreover, "it is deserved."

The foregoing represents fairly the unanimous sentiment of the press of Virginia. The Clifton Forge crime must not be allowed to excite animosity toward a whole race. The deed excited in the bosoms of leading black men all the horror that it aroused in white breasts.

Lynchings-1934

Alabama

4829

Rape by Whites.

Decatur Woman Attacked By Two Unidentified Men

Advertiser

3-25-34

Montgomery Ala

DECATUR, ALA., March 24.—(AP)—Mrs. Alice Hallmark was in a serious condition today following an attack on her by two unidentified white men at her home near here last night.

She was kicked and beaten during the attack and physicians said her condition was critical. A broken hip bone is one of her major injuries.

Her husband, O. H. Hallmark, is a worker in a CCC camp at Holly Springs, Miss. He was called to his wife's bedside today.

No arrests have been made.

LAWLESS WAVE HITS TALLADEGA

Post

6-15-34

Birmingham Ala

Outbreak Lands Four In Jail; Two Accused Of Criminal Assault

TALLADEGA, June 15.—(Special)—A sudden outbreak of lawlessness landed four men in jail and sent sheriff's officer on a search for a fifth and a sixth here Thursday.

Cowen Jackson, young farmer, was painfully wounded when he was peppered with a shotgun and beaten with a heavy instrument near Dry Valley. A warrant was issued for S. M. Mitchell and his son, Milton, charging assault with intent to murder.

Allan Butterworth and James Sexton, white youths, were jailed on warrants charging criminal assault upon Mrs. [illegible] Malone. The young men allegedly held Mrs. Malone and her husband, Stewart Malone, at the point of a gun while the attack took place near Turner's mill.

Herschell Farmer, white youth, was arrested on a stautory charge near Turner's mill. William McGhee, negro, was arrested in the theft of a shotgun from his father, John McGhee.

BESSEMER GIRL ACCUSES INDIAN

Post

Running Elk, Medicine Man, On Trial In Criminal Assault Charges

6-18-34

Birmingham Ala.

The trial of Chief Running Elk, Indian "medicine man," for criminally assaulting a Bessemer girl was to get upder way in Judge H. P. Heflin's court today with the defense insisting upon an open trial and the prosecution demanding that courtroom be cleared.

A preliminary skirmish occurred when Judge Heflin, sounding the criminal court docket, assigned the Indian's case to Judge J. Russell McElroy. Morrell Montgomery, counsel for Running Elk, objected on the grounds that Judge McElroy had heard a habeas corpus petition, had denied it and then had summoned the grand jury into special session to indict the Indian. Mr. Montgomery contended that Judge McElroy had a fixed opinion on the case.

Assistant Solicitor Jim McK. Long argued in favor of Judge McElroy's taking the case but Judge Heflin finally agreed to bring the trial into his own court.

Mr. Montgomery announced that he would insist upon an open trial but Arthur Green, Bessemer cut-off assistant solicitor and one of the prosecuting staff, said he would argue for a closed trial.

Chief Running Elk, a swarthy Apache, sat immobile throughout the argument. He wore a neat gray suit and a yellow shirt which shrieked in contrast to the heavy black hair that nearly reaches his shoulders.

The Indian said he was born in Arizona. His father's name, he said, is Chief Water Watch and he has a brother named Chief Clear Water.

The alleged attack took place near Bessemer, where Running Elk held forth as a doctor and fortune teller.

INDIAN PAYS FINE, ~~SPEEDS OUT OF CITY~~

Running Elk Is Gone After Settling With Court

Post

Faster than the hoofs of that noble animal for which he was named, the car of Chief Running Elk was carrying the Apache from Birmingham today.

6-25-34

Birmingham Ala

The 29-year-old Indian herb doctor and fortune-teller late Saturday paid $357.90 to the state, the amount of the fine imposed on him for assaulting Miss Crattie Knight, attractive Oak Grove girl.

Atty. R. M. Montgomery, who represented the Chief at his trial last week, said he understood the Indian left for Florida. The Chief told him, Mr. Montgomery declared, that he expected to return in August.

Reducing the capital charge of criminal assault to simple assault, a jury in Judge H. P. Heflin's court Thursday fined the Chief $250 and costs.

DEATH ASKED BY STATE IN ATTACK CASE

Post

Chief Running Elk Is Facing Chair On Allegation Of Girl

6-20-34

CHARGES DRAW DENIAL

Birmingham Ala

Indian Herb Doctor Asserts He Used No Violence; Arguments Open

The state today asked a jury in Judge H. P. Helfin's court to send Chief Running Elk, Indian herb doctor and fortune-teller, to the electric chair for criminally attacking Miss Crottie Knight, his stenographer, May 18.

In the opening argument for the state, Arthur Green, solicitor for the Bessemer cut-off, declared, "You have got to mete out capital punishment to him to stop him and others like him. If you convict him it does not mean a thing to her. She is asking you to protect these other white girls around here."

At this point the defendant's attorney, R. M. Montgomery, objected to this statement as "highly prejudicial and attempted to bias the jury."

The objection was sustained.

Testimony ended yesterday afternoon after the Indian in a low, deep voice categorically denied that he had assaulted or used violence on the young woman.

Arguments began when court opened this morning and the case was expected to reach the jury by early afternoon.

Testimony Contradictory

The defendant's testimony was in marked contrast to that given by Miss Knight Monday. He declared that on the same day she was hired Miss Knight showed an interest in his Indian pictures, his tribe, age, and whether he was single.

"She told me she liked dark complexion, dark hair and dark eyes," the Chief said.

Miss Knight testified that Chief Running Elk seized her while she was reading some correspondence to him and that he choked her and threw her down on a bed.

Dr. P. U. Reeves, a state witness, testified that he had treated Miss Knight and had found bruises on her legs.

Defense Points Given

Selena Hooks, negro employe at the Night Hawk roadhouse, near the Chief's office, testified that Thursday before the alleged attack Miss Knight spoke of the Indian in these terms: "I like him. I think he's fine. I like my job too."

Mrs. Pearl Manning, whose husband operates the Night Hawk, declared that she was sitting near the Chief's office Friday afternoon and did not hear any screams or unusual activity.

She did declare, however, that she saw Miss Knight go to the Night Hawk and thought it unusual that she should enter the back door.

Miss Knight previously had testified that immediately after the attack she went to the roadhouse.

STATE CLOSES CASE AGAINST INDIAN CHIEF

Doctor Follows Girl To Stand To Tell Of Harm To Victim

Post

6-19-34

Birmingham Alabama

SHE DESCRIBES ATTACK

Fortune Teller Is Accused Of Assaulting Employe In Office

The state rested its case today in the criminal assault trial of Chief Running Elk, Apache Indian "medicine man," after the alleged victim, Miss Crattie Knight, had resumed her story of the attack.

Dr. P. U. Reeves was the only other important state witness. He described the physical harm that had come to the attractive Oak Grove girl.

First defense witness was Jamie Ann Yelder, negro waitress at a roadhouse near the scene of the alleged assault. The Yelder woman testified that Miss Knight and the Indian were "laughing and talking" in a private dining booth at the roadhouse.

Courtroom Guarded

Judge H. P. Heflin's courtroom was guarded by deputies who searched spectators for weapons before permitting them to enter.

The 29-year-old Indian "doctor" and fortune teller kept his gaze averted from the face of his accuser yesterday afternoon as Miss Knight charged him with attacking her two days after he had employed her as a stenographer.

The attack, she said, occurred at the Indian's office on the South Bessemer Rd. the afternoon of May 18.

She said Chief Running Elk seized her, choked her, and otherwise harmed her as she finished reading two letters to him.

"You're all I've thought about since you came out here," Miss Knight said the Indian declared.

"I have dreamed about you," the witness said the Indian told her.

Miss Knight testified that Chief Running Elk in his fortune-telling activities used carbon paper to secure the name and what was on the mind of those who came to him for readings.

Attorneys In Wrangle

She said the carbon was given to the Chief after the client had written his or her name and a question. The original writing, she said, was given back to the writer.

Wrangles between R. M. Montgomery, representing Chief Running Elk, and Arthur Green and Greye Tate, representing the state, enlivened the trial.

INDIAN IS GIVEN $250 FINE ON GIRL'S ATTACK CHARGE

Post 6-21-34 Birmingham, Ala.

Jury Reduces Seriousness Of Offense Laid To Running Elk In Reaching Its Verdict After Deliberating Through Night

ACCUSER HYSTERICAL OVER DECISION

Screams Mark Announcement Of Ruling; Chief May Yet Be Sentenced To Jail Term By Magistrate Presiding Over Trial

The criminal assault trial of Chief Running Elk, carbon-paper fortune teller, ended today when a circuit court jury brought in a verdict of "guilty of assault" and fined the husky Apache $250.

Reading of the verdict was met with an outburst of hysterics by Miss Crattie Knight, 24, the Indian's stenographer who had accused him of criminally attacking her. The young woman sat for several minutes on a bench outside the courtroom following return of the verdict, moaning and screaming.

Chief Running Elk, the "medicine man" of the South Bessemer Rd., grinned broadly and said he felt "purty good" over the verdict. He had been extremely nervous when Judge H. P. Heflin cleared the courtroom and had deputies search spectators as they filed back to their seats to hear the verdict.

Courtroom Quiet

Deputies literally surrounded the Indian as Rutledge Snow, court clerk, read the jury's decision. There was no disturbance by the audience, however.

Judge Heflin still can sentence the long-haired defendant to as much as six months in jail, on the strength of the verdict of guilty. The jurist declined to comment on his action in this respect.

Miss Knight was taken to a fifth-floor restroom and quieted.

Running Elk whooped with joy and executed an impromptu Indian jig on the elevator leading to the jail on the top floor.

Morrell Montgomery, attorney for the Indian, asked Judge Heflin to postpone passing of sentence. Meanwhile Running Elk will remain in jail. Bish Gilbert, chief deputy sheriff, announced that the Apache could receive no visitors unless their business was specifically known.

The state had demanded the maximum penalty—death in the electric chair—for the Arizona redskin.

In its deliberations the jury was faced with conflicting stories of the alleged attack.

Miss Knight declared that on May 18, two days after the Indian had employed her, he choked and criminally assaulted her in his office on the South Bessemer Rd. She pulled his hair and screamed, she said, in futile defense.

The defendant declared that on the first day he engaged Miss Knight she exhibited an interest in him and permitted familiarities. He denied that he criminally attacked her but admitted amorous advances which he said were not repulsed.

The chief said that he took Miss Knight home and that on the way her head was on his shoulder

Birmingham, Ala.

Stranger Attacks Two Little Girls

Adv. 9-24-34 Montgomery, Ala.

Lures Children Of 8 And 9 To Outskirts Of City; Leaves Them In Ravine

Thoroughly aroused by the most outrageous of recent crimes in Montgomery city and county officers yesterday afternoon and last night combined efforts in a determined search for an unknown white man who lured two pretty girls eight and nine years, respectively, to a deep ravine near Oakwood Cemetery, strangled them with his hands, and then assaulted one, or both, of them.

Police last night had arrested a 51-year-old man on a blanket charge in connection with the case and detectives said he would be viewed this morning by the girls. It was admitted, however, that nothing definite had been found to connect the man with the assault.

First knowledge of the crime came to county officers about 1:15 p.m. yesterday when a resident of the Lower Wetumpka Road, near the cemetery, telephoned to the county jail and said that two girls, both of whom were soaked to the skin and suffering from bruises, had come to his home for aid.

Sheriff's Deputy H. P. Masingill, with E. F. Stearns, city warden, went to the home on the Wetumpka Road, took the girls in the car, and drove from street to street, hoping they would be able to identify their assailant. This failing, they returned the children to their homes and organized a party of city and county men to comb every inch of the district in the vicinity of the cemetery.

Suffering from ill treatment at the hands of the unknown man, the children were able to give only an incoherent account of what had happened. They said, in effect, that they had been playing on the 3[illegible] block of [illegible]bridge Street when a man walked up to them and asked that they accompany him to Cramton Bowl.

"Come on, girls," one quoted him as saying. "Walk to Cramton Bowl with me. Then I'll get my car and give you a nice ride back home."

Lured by the offer of a ride, they accompanied him for several blocks. Instead of being taken to Cramton Bowl, however, they were carried through some underbrush to a deep sand ravine near the cemetery.

There the children were thrown to the ground, and one, or both of them, assaulted. To prevent an outcry, the man held their throats with his bare fists and pushed their heads deep into the rain-soaked sand.

When they evidently offered no further protest, they were released.

"I'm going to get my car now," he told them, "you stay here and I'll come back for you. And remember, one word of this to your mothers, and I'll slit your throats!"

This command was impressed upon the children's minds. They remembered the warning, and only after being fully assured that no harm would come to them did they repeat their attacker's orders.

One of the girls described her assailant as being of from light to medium build and "very ugly." He wore brown trousers, she said, a white shirt, and a dark hat which she thought was felt.

FARMER GETS LIFE FOR ATTACK ON DAUGHTER

Post

Russellville Man Pleads Guilty To Charge

10-12-34

RUSSELLVILLE, Oct. 12.—(Special.)—Pleading guilty to a charge of attacking his own daughter Lawrence Bland, 45, farmer, was sentenced to life imprisonment in the penitentiary by Circuit Judge J. Fred Johnson today.

Ala.

A jury in circuit court late yesterday convicted Orin McCullough, 17, of murder in the slaying of Ira Hendrix, 19, and sentenced him to 10 years in the penitentiary. McCullough slew Hendrix several months ago for alleged slanderous remarks about the former's mother.

Another jury deliberated the fate of Berney Roberson, charged with first degree murder in the slaying of his son-in-law, Roy Saulsbury. The principal state witness against Roberson was his daughter Ellen, widow of the slain man.

WHITE MAN HELD FOR ATTACKING NEGRO GIRL

Post

Alleged Victim Identifies Him But Charges Are Denied

10-29-34

OPELIKA, Oct. 29.—(Special.)—Warner Bradham, 49-year-old white man, was lodged in Lee county jail here today on charges of attacking a nine-year-old negro girl.

Birmingham, Ala.

The girl identified Bradham as the man who is alleged to have assaulted her, but he denied the accusation.

ATTEMPTED ATTACK REPORTED TO POLICE

Post

High School Girl Tells Of Alleged Assault

11-23-34

Police today were investigating a report by a 17-year-old Woodlawn High school student that a 50-year-old white man drove her to Irondale and attempted to attack her late yesterday.

Birmingham, Ala.

The girl told Officers V. W. Gore and O. A. Evans that the man picked her up about three blocks from her home in Woodlawn and after driving her to a spot near Irondale, attempted to attack her.

The girl said she broke away from her captor and ran to a nearby house, from where the residents took her home.

The girl described her assailant as grey-haired, about 50 years old, six feet tall and weighing about 160 pounds.

JURY DEADLOCKS IN NEGRO GIRL ASSAULT

Opelikans Fail To Agree On Verdict In Case

Post 11-23-34 Birmingham, Ala.

OPELIKA, Nov. 23.—(Special.)—Mistrial was recorded here today in the case of Warnie Badham, 40 charged with criminally assaulting a nine-year-old negro girl. The jury was found on the first ballot to be six for acquittal and six for conviction, and remained in the same proportion throughout their deliberations, it was reported.

WHITE ATTACKER OF NEGRO GIRL GOES FREE

Planet 12-22-34 Richmond, Va.

OPELIKA, Ala.—(CNA)—Mistrial was declared here on November 22 in the case of Warnie Badham (white) accused of criminally assaulting a nine-year-old Negro girl. The jury on the first ballott was six for acquittal and six for conviction and remained in the same proportion throughout the deliberations, it was reported.

No lynch-gangs gathered during the trial.

Alabama

4830

Lynchings-1934

Rape by Whites.

Attacker Of Girls Is Still At Large

Advertiser

8-20-34

Montgomery, Ala.

The stranger who attacked two small girls near Oakwood Cemetery shortly after noon Saturday remained at large yesterday, the 51-year-old man arrested by police on a blanket charge had been released after the children said he "did not look like" their assailant, and city and county officers redoubled efforts to bring the criminal to justice.

No further arrests were reported in the case last night but officers said they had a clue which might result in the apprehension of the guilty party at any moment. All of those endeavoring to find the man expressed their indignation of the outrageous assault and declared firmly that they would leave nothing undone in their investigation.

Both of the girls were said to be "doing well," and it was thought that they probably would suffer no serious effects as a result of the assault.

WHITE MAN SOUGHT FOR ATTACKING GIRLS

Children Report Assault On Them In Cemetery

By United Press.

MONTGOMERY, Aug. 21.—Police redoubled their efforts today to find a white man who attacked two small girls here late Saturday in a cemetery.

Post

The victims, aged nine and ten, failed to identify one suspect arrested early yesterday, and he was released.

8-22-34

The bruised and dirty children ran to a farm house near Oakwood cemetery after the assault, and sobbed out their story. Posses were immediately organized and combed the surrounding woods, while police cars patrolled nearby roads, but the search was unsuccessful.

Lynchings-1934
Rape by Whites.

Arkansas.

4828

CHARGED WITH ASSAULT

Commercial Appeal

Youth Held, Another Sought For Alleged Attack

1-31-34

PARAGOULD, Ark., Jan. 30.—Anthony Morgan, young man of the southeastern part of Greene County, waived examination on the charge of assault with intent to commit a criminal attack upon a 14-year-old Craighead County girl, Jan. 23, in the Coffman Section, and was held to the May grand jury by Justice of the Peace E. S. Heaton. Morgan is in jail in default of $500 bond. Another youth also is being sought for an attempted assault on the other of the twin girls.

GIRL TELLS OF ATTACK

State Builds Strong Case Against Frank Callahan

Commercial Appeal

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., Feb. 7.—The state today built up a strong case against Frank "One Arm" Callahan, rooming house proprietor, being tried on a statutory charge.

The prosecuting witness, a 13-year-old girl, related the story of the trip into the country with Callahan, who, she said, attacked her.

Chief of Police Joe Wakelin testified Callahan admitted his guilt to him when he took Callahan to Benton to prevent mob violence. A partial confession Callahan had dictated to Walter M. Ebel, local newspaper man, also was read to the jury.

2-8-34

The defense contends Callahan was the victim of a "frame-up" concocted by Callahan's brother, Bob, and the latter's wife, Rena.

THREE YEARS FOR ASSAULT

Anthony Morgan Is Given Sentence at Paragould

Commercial Appeal

PARAGOULD, Ark., May 22.—A circuit court jury late today found Anthony Morgan, 21, guilty of a charge of assault and fixed his punnshment at three years in the state penitentiary.

5-23-34

Morgan is alleged to have attempted to criminally attack a 14-year-old girl of the Cchug community, Craighead County, Jan. 23.

Galen Hatcher is under indictment on a similar charge and his case has been set for tomorrow.

Judge Orders White Doctor to Leave Arkansas Town

Defender

4-7-34 Chicago, Ill.

[Special to The Chicago Defender]

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., April 6.—Dr. J. S. Pierce, white physician, who was convicted of "contributory delinquency" in connection with his raping of a 12-year-old schoolgirl, has been ordered to leave the state of Arkansas and never return.

This decision was reached recently when the Pulaski circuit court, presided over by Judge Abner McGhee, heard Dr. Pierce plead guilty after appealing the verdict of a lower court which had sentenced him to 60 days in jail and a $300 fine. Although the doctor had been taken in his office with the little girl only after police had broken down his door, he fought the charges in the lower court, and after sentence was passed upon him in February, defiantly filed notice of appeal.

Citizens Demand Justice

In the meantime Race citizens, working with a handful of white people who believe in justice, were demanding that this white rapist be given the same treatment that would be meted out to any other person guilty of the crime of criminally attacking a 12-year-old girl. They did not demand a lynching, although it was freely expressed that had the person despoiled been a white girl and the guilty person not white, there would surely have been a lynching in Little Rock. All that was demanded in this case was that the laws be enforced—laws which are specific with reference to this sort of crime.

It is this attitude on the part of responsible citizens that brought Dr. Pierce to his decision to plead guilty before the circuit court if he could be let off with an order to leave the state. By leaving Arkansas, the doctor knew he would also put himself out of reach of a civil suit which had been suggested to the parents of the little girl, and which was being considered by a group of competent lawyers.

Most Brutal Case

The case, which attracted wide attention in this section of the state, was one of the most brutal on record. Dr. Pierce, using one little girl as a decoy, lured the other child to his office. This happened on a Friday in January. Two days later, after the girl's father had exhausted every other means to locate his daughter he prevailed upon the chief of police to lead a raid on the doctor's office and there found his girl in bed and the doctor in his pajamas. The child stated that she had been held a prisoner there for more than 48 hours.

Dr. Pierce came to this city from Kansas City several years ago. It was revealed in the course of an investigation that he never was registered here, but confined his practice to poor whites and unsuspecting members of the Race.

WHEN IT'S WHITE IT'S DIFFERENT

When a Negro is accused of raping a white woman in the South, he is lynched. Recently up in Little Rock a white physician was found guilty of raping a 12-year-old Negro girl and he was given, almost with an apology, a fine of $300 and a sentence of sixty days in jail. What a travesty on justice!

HELD ON ASSAULT CHARGE

Arkansas Farmer Placed in Pine Bluff Jail

Commercial Appeal

STAR CITY, Ark., July 23.—C. S. Perkins, 63, farmer of the Cornerville community near here, has been charged with attempting to assault three girls whose ages range from eight to 11.

Perkins is now in jail at Pine Bluff.

He was arrested in Cleveland County.

Perkins is married.

FACE ASSAULT CHARGES

Trial for Pair to Be Held in Jonesboro Tuesday

Commercial Appeal

7-26-34

Memphis, Tenn.

JONESBORO, Ark., July 25.—Bill Cummings, charged with criminal assault, and Herbert Mangrum, charged with assault with intent to rape, will be tried in Justice Howard Powell's court Tuesday, it was announced today by Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Norris Webb.

A young woman resident of the same community charges that Cummings attacked her and that he encouraged Mangrum, too, but that her pleas warded Mangrum off. She charges the crime occurred on a country road leading from the Caraway Highway near her home, following a dance at Black Oak.

Lynchings-1934
&
Rape by Whites.

California

4831

'MODEL' YOUTH DENIES ATTACK

Takes Scout Oath In Again Denying Brutal Crime Against Woman

By United Press.

FRESNO, Cal., July 10.—On his honor as a boy scout, Clayton Stone, 14-year-old "model boy" swore today that he did not beat and criminally attack his playmates' mother, Mrs. Bertha Blagg, 34.

The small blond youth who has not yet worn his first pair of long trousers told Police Chief Frank P. Truax he had nothing to do with the mysterious attack on Mrs. Blagg.

Pale, the boy recited in a quavering voice the scout oath of allegiance, truth and cleaning living.

"I couldn't have done such a thing to Clark's mother," he said. Clark is Mrs. Blagg's oldest son and Clayton's playmate.

But in her hospital bed where she has lain speechless and partially paralyzed for a week, Mrs. Blagg again wrote on a sheet of paper the name of Clayton Stone and accused him as the person who crept into her bedroom, beat her and attacked her—"just for fun."

Brilliant student and "model youth," Clayton was home and in bed the night of the attack, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Stone, told police.

Authorities who questioned Mrs. Blagg said she appeared rational.

By written messages Mrs. Blagg told officers she awoke late Tuesday night to find the boy in her bedroom.

"I just came in for fun," she said the boy told her.

Her oldest son, Clark, 14, found her body in her bedroom the next morning. Police said she had teen beaten with a blunt instrument and attacked.

Boy, 14, Released On Assault Charge

FRESNO, Cal., July 10.—(UP)—The dramatic accusation of a semiconscious woman who accused Clayton Stone, 14, of beating her, was dismissed on the recommendation of physicians tonight and the boy was released.

Young Stone had denied throughout that he was guilty of the brutal attack, but Mrs. Bertha Blagg, 34, had written his name—being speechless and partly paralyzed since the assault last Tuesday—as her assailant.

Lynchings-1934

Rape by Whites.

Colorado.

4832

ATTACKER OF GIRL, 12, GETS 20-30 YEAR TERM

Constitution

10-16-34

DENVER, Oct. 15.—(P)—John W. Brewer, 35, convicted last week of a criminal attack upon a 12-year-old girl, was sentenced today to 20 to 30 years in prison.

Atlanta Ga.

The courts recently declined to give permission to physicians to operate to prevent the girl from becoming a mother. The courts held the operation would be illegal because it was not necessary to save the child's life.

Lynchings-1934

Rape by Whites.

Florida.

4833

Girl Seeks To End Life After Alleged Attack

Constitution

1-27-34

Atlanta Ga.

MIAMI, Fla., Jan. 26.—(AP)—A 22-year-old girl, employed at a sandwich stand, sought to drown herself today after she was found wandering along a highway by a policeman, to whom she told of being criminally assaulted by two white men.

Sergeant L. G. Crews reported he noticed the girl on the road, half-walking, half-stumbling along. He questioned her and she told him of the attack. He then drove her to her home.

As she was about to enter the house, Crews said, she instead ran to a near-by canal and jumped in. He followed the girl into the water and brought her to shore after a struggle.

Police were seeking the men, handicapped in their search because the girl remained in a hysterical condition and was unable to give a description of the assailants.

She said she met the men at the stand and had gone riding with them

---

FOUR WOMEN ACCUSE FLORIDIAN IN ATTACKS

Post

Mother Of Two Among Purported Victims

9-12-34

By United Press.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Sept. 12.—With one of his purported victims a 20-year-old mother of two children, J. L. Skinner, 23, was held today for a grand jury investigation on charges of criminal assault against four women.

Birmingham Ala.

The women identified Skinner at a hearing before a justice of the peace as the one who allegedly attacked them.

The young mother said Skinner answered an advertisement she inserted in a newspaper seeking employment. She testified he lured her into the woods and attacked her.

Skinner was working at a filling station when arrested.

Lynchings-1934
6
Rape by Whites

Louisiana

4834

FORMER OFFICIAL GUILTY

Mouton Convicted on Count Brought By Girls

1-6-34

LAFAYETTE, La., Jan. 5.—(AP)—Former Lieut. Gov. Fernand Mouton, one of eight men arrested here recently for alleged offenses against three young girls, today was found guilty on a charge of indecent assault, following trial before Judge Paul Debaillon in district court.

Trial on a second charge is pending.

Mouton was placed under bond of $600, pending sentence, which is to be pronounced Jan. 10.

Lynchings-1934
Rape by Whites.

Mississippi.

4835

FACES SERIOUS CHARGES

Commercial Appeal

Laurel Merchant Accused of Attacking Little Girls

LAUREL, Miss., May 30.—Willis Walters, 55, proprietor of a small restaurant and store in West Laurel, was indicted today on four statutory counts.

5-31-34

He is accused of attacking three girls, aged six, eight and 11 years. He is held in jail without bond, the alleged crime being a capital offense. The indictments charge that Walters lured the children into his store with promises of candy. Officers were not notified until parents of one of the children discovered the condition of their child, said by physicians to be serious. The other two are nder care of doctors.

Memphis, Tenn.

Lynchings- 1934
&
Rape by Whites.

North Carolina

4836

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
NEWS

MAY 10 1934

Maybe He's Overtrained.

As The News and Observer sees and editorially says it, Judge Henry A. Grady in Wake superior court dismissed on payment of the costs charges of assault and attempted rape brought against "the son of a prominent official in the federal revenue office in New York". The case was up on appeal from the Raleigh city court where the evidence was to the effect that Charles Hall entered the home of a woman who was in bed asleep, recovering from an appendicitis operation, attempted to criminally assault her and when she screamed beat her, stripped her of her clothes and was dragging her about the house when forced to desist by a Negro neighbor who came to the rescue and shot Hall in the eg. The press of the city had acclaimed the Negro as a hero, and the solicitor of the city court had expressed the conviction that the woman would otherwise have been killed.

In superior court Hall offered no defense save that he was drunk and remembered nothing that occurred on the day of the assault. He also said that he had at one time been confined to an institution for treatment of a nervous disorder.

The News and Observer believes, and we think properly, that such "discretion" as has been exercised by Judge Grady is of the sort which tends to destroy "faith and confidence in American justice".

And Judge Grady, as some of you may recall, was the jurist who recently said it was "all a lie and a humbug" that a Negro could not get justice in a North Carolina court. It now looks as if a white woman may experience difficulty in getting justice in a court presided over by him.

What to do about it, other than to express one's resentment as The News and Observer and this newspaper are doing? Well, if it is thought best to swallow the incident as a lapse in judgment by an otherwise acceptable official, why not give him along with the other 19 regular and the four (isn't it?) emergency judges of the superior court a month's vacation every year? If there is nothing worse the matter with Judge Grady, he is at least overtrained.

Oklahoma.

4837

Lynchings-1934
Rape by Whites.

Black Dispatch
12-22-34
Oklahoma City Okla

Setting Our Judicial House in Order

Governor-elect E. W. Marland, from his Ponca City mansion, has launched a determined war on crime and offers a four-point program in the development of his plan of attack. Here is Mr. Marland's agendum:

1. A state court of original jurisdiction, to take trial of all major criminal cases away from county authorities.
2. A statewide police force with full power to rush into any county and take charge of a criminal investigation.
3. That pardons and paroles should be granted by governors only in extraordinary cases.
4. That present day penal practices are sadly antiquated.

In his discussion of the wishy-washy attitude of county attorneys and enforcement authorities, at times the governor-elect is quoted as saying:

> "Take apprehension out of the hands of local authorities exclusively. Have some authority set up with better facilities for apprehension, without danger of being affected by local sentiment that sometimes restrains local authorities.
>
> "It is too bad that local authorities, sometimes by reason of political and social influence of criminals or their friends, do not perform duties with the speed and certainty necessary in good government.
>
> "It is very hard to secure conviction for the man guilty of a misdemeanor or felony by a jury of his county friends and neighbors, tried by the county prosecutor who must depend for re-election on the support of the criminal's friends."

We agree completely and fully in every position and viewpoint taken by the governor-elect on this question What he has to say has been our certain knowledge for many years. What we intend by elevating Mr. Marland's remarks to our columns is to measure the Negro's judicial woes with the yardstick he offers.

For instance, we wonder how much effect "public sentiment" and fear of political oblivion has upon white officials when a Negro's case comes up in court, especially where a white person is the prosecuting witness. Take for instance the Scottsboro case. Was truth sidestepped for "public sentiment?"

Several years ago a Negro woman was tried in Oklahoma County for shooting a white man who sought to rape her young daughter. The County Attorney's office issued a warrant for the black woman but never did agree to arrest the proven white would-be rapist. The Judge, even after the white man's own child on the stand unwittingly told of the struggle of the Negro child and the white fiend in the bedroom, and going into intimate details, refused to order the white man arrested.

Those who seek to correct our judicial system and make more effective our efforts against crime would do well to study court procedure from this angle. Somewhere in our social setup we have a culture which breeds violence and criminality. Can we create a gap in our judicial processes uncolored by integrity or honor across which we may go safely and unimpaired to rectitude and moral responsibility?

In advertently, the governor-elect is making a stinging indictment of local self-government which reaches back to the holy portals of state rights. Even though this government is founded upon this principle, we have always rebelled against the idea. Local self-government is a failure and so far as it fitting into this modern age, it is as obsolete as a raise in salary.

Speaking of law enforcement, we might turn with profit toward the British Empire. Local self-government has about as much authority in the various political units of England as "central control" has in our smaller political sub-divisions in the United States. Administration and control in England is vested in the Crown and the Commons. Public sentiment for relatives, race and friends has about as much chance in English courts as a snowball would have in the south end of Hell.

What is the result? England stands today as a nation of discipline and honor. When Scotland Yard starts out after her man, that man is doomed. The record of convictions for crime in England, plus the records which show the extremely low crime rate, should put America to shame.

Another vital point should be stressed regarding English forms. In our country we make a fetish of a constitution written by provincials who could not see beyond the narrow portals of local self-government. In England Parliament is the Constitution. How much howling do you suppose would go up to high heaven if one were to suggest that we scrap the "greatest document ever written" and depend upon current opinion and morals to guide our lives?

Lynchings - 1934
Rape by Whites.

Tennessee

4838

4838

FATHER RESCUES CHILD FROM STREET ATTACK

Holds Liquor-Crazed Man Until Police Arrive

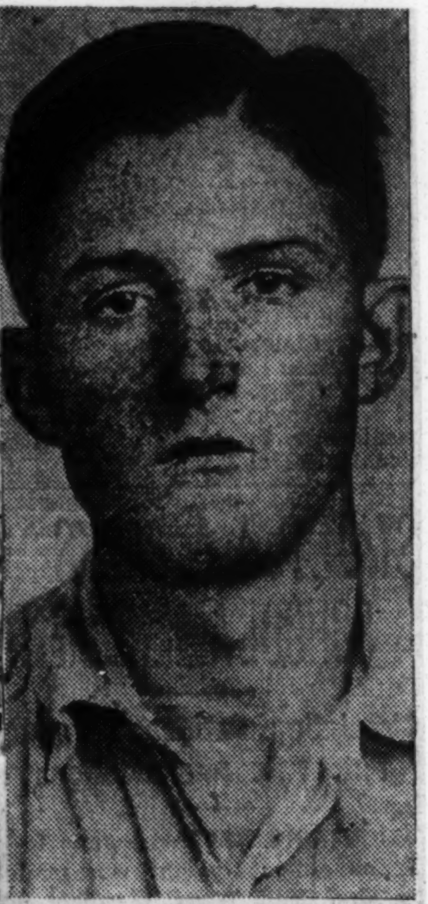
Commercial Appeal
5-22-3
Memphis, Tenn.

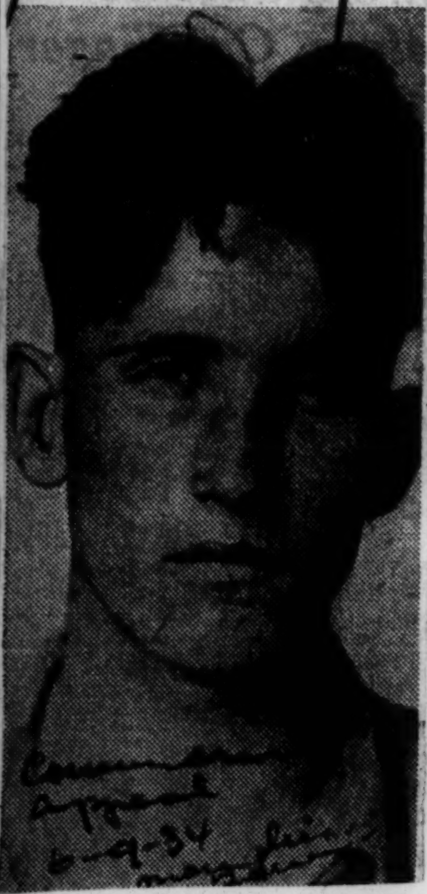
Attacked by a liquor crazed man at third and Poplar, an eight-year-old Christine grade school girl was rescued by her father, T. M. Bryant, cafe operator, at [illegible] Poplar early last night.

Informed by an unidentified woman that a man was tearing the clothes from a little girl, Mr. Bryant left his cafe to find that the girl was his daughter. He overpowered the attacker and held him until police arrived.

The man gave his name and address as H. I. Lucy, 35, 57 Court. He was docketed on charges of disorderly conduct and attempted criminal assault and is being held without bail.

Pair Accused





Commercial Appeal
6-9-34
Memphis

(Reprinted from yesterday's late editions)

William Nunnley, 23 (above) and George Nunnley, 20, Louisville, Ky., are charged with robbery and criminal assault.

PROBE DYER ASSAULT

Grand Jury To Get Brothers' Case At Dyersburg Monday

Commercial Appeal
6-9-34
Memphis, Tenn.

DYERSBURG, Tenn., June 8.—Charges of robbery and criminal assault against William Nunnelly, 23, and George Nunnelly, 20, brothers, of Louisville, Ky., will be considered by the Dyer grand jury when circuit court convenes here next Monday.

Whether they will be tried this term, if indicted, still remains a question. Authorities said here Friday that if tey are tried the hearing will be set and conducted so as to attract the least possible attention. Following the usual custom, it is anticipated that most cases on the civil docket will be passed this term of court and the criminal docket taken up during the early days of the session.

Texas.

Lynchings - 1934

Rape by Whites.

4839

Two White Men Ravish Negro Girl Sunday Morning

Informer

CONROE.—The nine year old daughter of a prominent family were taken away from her home early Sunday morning and attacked by two white men while her parents were at work. The child was found later near a creek tied up in a sack. She was returned to her home. The two men were later arrested and are being held in the Montgomery County jail.

10-27-34

Houston

Tex.

Lynchings - 1934
6
Rape by Whites.

Virginia.
6

4840

Local White Man Charged With Attacking 13-Year-Old Girl

Planet 3-10-34

Petersburg, Va.

A little colored girl, a bit frightened, appeared before the Hustings court grand jury Monday morning, and after a recital of certain shocking alleged facts, a true bill was returned against Edgar [illegible] Knolle, a white man, 53 years of age and married. He will be tried Monday in Hustings Court on charges that he raped this 13-year-old girl, may be the father of her unborn child, and also practiced certain unprintable orgies upon her. The scene of the alleged happenings were in the 700 block West Clay Street, and the following have been summoned as witnesses: Aubrey Fox, 711 West Clay Street; Leroy Smith, 7[illegible] West Clay Street, and William H. Harris, 717 West Clay Street.

MIDDLE-AGE WHITE MAN RAPES 7-YEAR-OLD COLORED GIRL

Planet

(Special to Richmond Planet)

By Royal L. Hart

Petersburg, Va.—Constance Crocker a feeble-minded 7-year-old colored girl, who resides on Guinan's Alley, was criminally assaulted Thursday, May 3rd, at 4:30 p. m. by R. C. Smith, a middle-age white man, who enticed her into a wash-house, to accomplish his nefarious purpose.

Had Planned to Attack Another

He had a few minutes before the offense was committed, attempted to entice Elizabeth Briggs, a 12-year-old girl for the same illegal act, but she was wiser than her size indicated, and would not go off with him. However, she became suspicious when she saw him talking to Constance Crocker, and noticed the neighbors, one of whom is an eye-witness to the offense.

When the alarm was spread Smith attempted to escape but was captured by Otis Lewis, William Murphy and Richard Ma[illegible]. He again tried to escape but was subdued and held a prisoner in a house until the arrival of police. At the time of his capture he did not deny his guilt, but only begged to be released.

White Press Did Not Publish Attack

Despite the fact that the attack was a matter of common knowledge no account of the assault appeared in the white newspapers circulated in this city.

When the case was called in Police Court on May 4th, it was continued until May 8th.

This is the second time within three years that a colored female under eight years of age has been attacked by white men in the City of Petersburg.

NEGROES, NOT WHITES, WARN MRS. EATON NOT TO PRESS CHARGES AGAINST ST. CLARE

Journal and Guide
8-4-34

Portsmouth Bureau

Norfolk, Va.

As a surprise aftermath of the story in the Journal and Guide concerning the attempted rape charge which Mrs. Lilly Eaton, of 900 Chatauqua Avenue, pressed against St. Clare, white of Glasgow Street, in Portsmouth Police Court on Saturday, July 21, several colored men approached the courageous plaintiff and sought to have her call off the court proceedings, "because he's a white man, and you know what they'll come up here and do to you," according to information given the Guide by Mrs. Eaton this week.

Strange as it seems, Mrs Eaton has been continually warned by colored citizens of the city to go easy on the charges, citing fear for her safety, while several white citizens, acting on information read in the Journal and Guide, visited her and advised that she press the charges to the utmost. Indeed. two white friends offered to lend financial aid if she needed it. Mrs. Eaton, it was learned, is known to many white residents of the city as an "honest woman." St. Clare was not identified in such glorious terms.

Two colored men visited Mrs. Eaton Saturday and questioned her at length concerning the case. They asked her what she intended to do next, how much money she had, and if she wasn't afraid that friends of the accused man might do her bodily harm.

"They were obviously friends of St. Clare's," Mrs. Eaton told this writer. "They wanted me to ease out of the case so he would get off light. Can you imagine that? Colored men—instead of trying to protect the women of their race—they encourage such things"

Mrs. Eaton said she intedned to see that the accused man was punished, and investigating police say they will do their part in prosecuting the case. It is to be reviewed during the September term of the Portsmouth Hustings Court. According to the victim's story of the assault and robery, she was attacked in a dark and secluded spot in the 2300 Block of Glasgow St. She was mauled unmercifully by the man. Two White men, Messrs. Johnson and Noble Cotton, rushed to her resuce as she lay dazed in a lot, on which once stood a school building. Her attacker fled but later returned when he found that the rescuers were white.

After the police court hearing Mrs. Eaton was trailed for almost an hour by three white men who later threatened her should she further prosecute the accused man.

Lynchings-1934
Reports on Sent Press.

Jan. - June.

4842

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
REPUBLICAN
JUL 6 1934

SIX LYNCHINGS IN HALF YEAR

To the Editor of The Republican:—

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find, according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research, that in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is two less than the number, eight, for the first six months of 1933; and one more than the number, five, for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Wounding man in altercation, one; rape, one; attempted rape, two; associating with white woman, one; striking man, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, one; Kentucky, one; Mississippi, two; Tennessee, one, and Texas, one.

R. R. MOTON, President.
Tuskegee Institute, Ala., July 3, 1934.

NEW BEDFORD, MASS.
STANDARD
JUL 8 1934

FEWER LYNCHINGS THAN LAST YEAR—

To the Editor of The Standard-Times:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is two less than the number eight for the first six months of 1933; and one more than the number five for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Wounding man in altercation, one; rape, one; attempted rape, two; associating with white woman, one; striking man, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, one; Kentucky, one; Mississippi, two; Tennessee, one; and Texas, one.

ROBERT R. MORTON,
President, Tuskegee Institute.

WATERTOWN, N. Y.
TIMES
JUL 6 1934

Letters from the People.

The Lynching Record.

To The Times:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is two less than the number eight for the first six months of 1933; and one more than the number five for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Wounding man in altercation, one; rape, one; attempted rape, two; associating with white woman, one; striking man, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, one; Kentucky, one; Mississippi, two; Tennessee, one, and Texas, one.

R. R. Moton.
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, July 3, 1934.

TEXARKANA, TEX.
NEWS
JUL 5 1934

Lynchings in U. S. Decline

There were six lynchings during the first six months of 1934, acording to a report that has been issued by the Tuskegee Institute's department of records and researches, Tuskegee, Alabama.

This record, as compared with those of the two previous years, shows two less than the first six months of 1933 and one more than in the same period of 1932. All the persons lynched were negroes, according to the report.

The offenses with which those lynched were charged were: wounding men in altercation, one; rape, one; attempted rape, two; associating with white woman, one; and striking man, one. Two of the lynchings occurred in Mississippi, one in Florida, one in Kentucky, one in Tennessee and one in Texas.

SAN ANGELO, TEX.
STANDARD
JUL 6 1934

LYNCHING RECORD

Records of the Tuskegee Institute disclose that for the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings, two fewer than the eight registered for the first six months of 1933 and one more than the five recorded for the first six months of 1932. All those lynched were negroes.

Texas, Tennessee, Florida and Kentucky had one each, Mississippi two. Offenses charged were: wounding man in an altercation, rape, attempted rape, associating with white woman and striking a man.

Our lynching record continues no cause for pride, though there is much cause for gratitude in the greater restraint that is being exercised now compared to periodic mob displays a decade ago. Greater public recognition that one crime does not blot out another seems evident in the light of Tuskegee figures.

HARTFORD, CONN.
COURANT
JUL 6 1934

LYNCHING RECORD

Six Were Recorded During First Six Months of Year

To the Editor of The Courant:—

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is two less than the number eight for the first six months of 1933; and one more than the number 5 for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Wounding men in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white women, 1; striking man, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

R. R. MOTON,
President, Tuskegee Institute.
Tuskegee, Ala., July 3, 1934.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.
DEMOCRAT & CHRONICLE
JUL 7 1934

Dr. Moton Comments on Lynching Record of 1934

Editor Democrat and Chronicle:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of ~~this~~ year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is two less than the number eight for the first six months of 1933; and one more than the number five for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

R. R. MOTON,
President.
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

WORCESTER, MASS.
TELEGRAM
JUL 6 1934

LYNCHINGS IN 1934

Two Less in First Half Than in First Half of 1933

To the Editor of the Telegram:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the departments of records and research that in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is two less than the number eight for the first six months of 1933; and one more than the number five for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1, and Texas, 1.

ROBERT R. MORTON.
President, Tuskegee Institute.
Tuskegee, Ala., July 3.

Abbeville, Ala., Herald
July 19, 1934

THE LYNCHING RECORD; FIRST SIX MONTHS, 1934

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of records and Research that in the first six months of 1933; and 1 were six lynchings. This is 2 less than the number 8 for the first six fonths of 1933; and 1 more than the number 5 for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white women, 1; striking man, 1;

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

Yours very truly,
R. R. Morton,
President Tuskegee Institute

Alexander City, Ala., Outlook
July 19, 1934

LYNCHING RECORD FOR FIRST SIX MONTH 1934

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is 2 less than the number 8 for the first six months of 1933; and 1 more than the number five for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

Yours very truly,
R. R. Moton,
President

Blakeley, Ga. News
July 19, 1934

GEORGIA LYNCHING RECORD CLEAR TO DATE

(Moultrie Observer)

There was no lynching in Georgia for the first half of 1934, according to records kept at Tuskegee Institute. We are proud of this but it may be well to knock on wood. It has been the case in the past that when it looked as if we had gotten over the lynching habit another unfortunate affair would break out. There were only six lynchings in the country at large for the past six months and while this is not the lowest record that has ever been made, it is nevertheless, a good record.

Springfield, Tenn. Herald
July 19, 1934

Two Less Lynchings in Six Months of '34 Than in '33

TUSKEEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—There were two less lynchings during the first six months of 1934 than in the first six months of 1933, according to figures compiled at Tuskeegee Institute here in the department of records and research.

There were six lynchings in the first six months of 1934; eight in the same period in 1933, and five in the same period in 1932.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: wounding man in altereation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; Texas, 1.

Manhattan Island, which the Indians sold to white men for $25 has an assessed value of nearly $5,500,000,000.

Washington, Ga., News-Reporter
July 26, 1934

GEORGIA LYNCHING RECORD CLEAR TO DATE

(Moultrie Observer)

There was no lynching in Georgia for the first half of 1934, according to records kept at Tuskegee Institute. We are proud of this but it may be well to knock on wood. It has been the case in the past that when it looked as if we had gotten over the lynching habit another unfortunate affair would break out. There were only six lynchings in the country at large for the past six months and while this is not the lowest record that has ever been made, it is nevertheless, a good record.

Quincy, Fla., Times
July 19, 1934

LYNCHING RECORD IN COUNTRY LOW

There were six lynchings in the United States during the first six months of this year, according to information broadcast by the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute at Tuskegee, Ala. All of the victims were negroes, says the report. The offences charged includede wounding a man in altercation, rape, attempted rape, associating with white woman and striking a man. The records of Tuskegee show Florida had one lynching; Kentucky one; Mississippi two; Tennessee one and Texas one.

The records of Tuskegee are incomplete beacause they fail to mention the lynching of two white men during the past spring in California. They kidnaped and killed a young man, and then sought to collect ransom money.

Titusville, Fla., Advocate
July 17, 1934

Six Lynchings In Past Six Months

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is 2 less than the number 8 for the first six months of 1933; and 1 more than the number 5 for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: wounding men in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

Music - National Association of Negro Musicians.

Lynchings - 1934
&
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. - June.

4844

SHREVEPORT, LA.
JOURNAL

JUL 12 1934

Inexcusable.

Morehouse parish is being criticised because of inexcusable lawlessness which brought it shame at the hands of the mob at Bastrop. Investigation by parochial and municipal authorities, with a view to submitting evidence to the grand jury at its next regular session, is under way. For the sake of law and order, all citizens who oppose the illegal taking of life will be in hearty sympathy with those conducting the investigation. They will entertain the hope that the authorities will learn the identity of members of the mob and collect enough information to warrant indictments and convictions.

If, as reported, approximately three hundred persons took part in lynching the negro, accused of attacking a young white woman, there surely ought to be evidence available to connect some of them with the crime. The victim was forcibly removed from the jail at Bastrop and hanged from a tree limb on the court square. Doubtless there were witnesses, although the lynching occurred at night.

The experience Morehouse parish is having in trying to bring to justice those responsible for this outrage against orderly government is similar, of course, to that many other communities have had in times gone by. It is the customary result that nobody is punished. Usually there is nobody willing to furnish information involving any of the lynchers, due to fear or indifference, and when this spirit controls, of course, it is next to impossible to bring any offenders before the courts for prosecution.

We do not advance the belief that the mob's victim got less than he deserved, judging by reports of the criminal offense alleged. But the punishment was inflicted in the wrong manner. Those who dealt it were guilty of vicious lawlessness themselves. They brought disgrace to the community in which they pulled off their gruesome demonstration. They gave law and order a serious setback. They permitted their brutal impulses to ignore constituted authority, which must prevail if life and property are to be held in security and the reputation of the state in having respect for government is to be protected.

Some outside "international" organization with a rather long name has made protest, holding the sheriff and police chief "responsible" for the lynching and demanding "immediate arrests," etc. That sort of attempted interference gets nowhere; rather, it usually tends to cause resentment and handicaps an investigation. The effort to punish the Bastrop mob members belongs to the Louisiana authorities, particularly those elected by the citizens of Morehouse parish and the city of Bastrop. It is not the business of any "international" outfit, and the sooner meddlers of this type are given to understand that their "demands" are unwelcome, the better off will the situation be. We have high regard for the citizenship of the community which is having this lynching outrage to handle, and feel that a genuine effort will be made to prosecute members of the mob, if they are revealed, and also that steps will be taken to prevent any additional occurrence of this kind. The whole state should be watching for and expecting law-respecting developments. If the homefolks can not get the results, nobody else can, and outside "demands" are absolutely silly and presumptuous.

MONROE, LA.
NEWS STAR

JUL 11 1934

Two Wrongs Do Not Make A Right

A mob at Bastrop Monday night took the law into its own hands and meted out summary punishment to a craven wretch who purportedly confessed a heinous crime.

Both those episodes were wrong; by no system of ethical, moral, social or legal computation can the two wrongs be made to constitute a right. Mob law—the expression of the mutable mass, fired though it may be by a spirit of vengeance against unholy crime—does not comport with American institutions. Mobs are insensate, irresponsible, unreasoning, and often make tragic mistakes in picking their victims.

Whether the mob at Bastrop made a mistake is not the point. The point is that a gathering of American citizens took it upon themselves to disavow one of the principles of justice. In doing so they caused a smirch to be smeared on this year's page of Louisiana history, which up to Monday night had not been darkened by a lynching.

The action of the mob was not only an affront to the legally constituted forces of Morehouse parish, who could be counted on to see that the ends of law, order and justice would be adequately served in the case of a culprit who had made an attack on a young woman, but it was likewise an affront to that band of high-minded southern women who for the past dozen years have been devoting themselves to the task of wiping out the stigma which the practice of lynching imposes on any commonwealth addicted to it. Through their noble efforts lawless executions of suspected criminals have been notably fewer in the last few years throughout the south, where the mass of the citizenry have consistently set themselves against this form of outlawry.

Lynching has never proved a solution of the problem of racial crimes. That is demonstrated by the fact that crimes against womanhood were far more prevalent in the days when lynching was common than they are today. A certainty of legal retribution serves as a more effective deterrent than does mob violence. And such legal retribution would without question have been invoked in the Morehouse parish case had the law been permitted to take its course. The mob accomplished nothing so much as sullying the fair name of an orderly and law-abiding community.

ROME, GA.
NEWS TRIBUNE

JUL 8 1934

MOB VIOLENCE IN 1934

BOTH Georgia and Alabama came through the first six months of 1934 without a single lynching, and this is cause for gratification, since it shows a growing appreciation of the hideous nature of this offense.

During this six-months period there were six lynchings, in the South, all of the victims being negroes. They occurred in Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas. There was one each in all these states, except in Mississippi, where two persons were the victims of mob law.

During the same period in 1933, there were eight lynchings in the South, 1934 showing a reduction of two.

Any reduction in the number of outbreaks of this nature is something to be appreciated, but the fact that there are any such events is to be deeply deplored.

The fact cannot be too often or too strongly stressed that outbreaks of lawlessness, for whatever cause, actually are assaults upon the safeguards that society has erected for its safety.

When mobs defy the law and take human life the big thing is not that a life has been sacrificed without due process of law, though this is bad enough. The big thing is that damage is being done to the wall of protection that the people have erected and which must be preserved if life and property are to be safe.

Those who indulge in such defiance of law are inviting perils that it is essential to avoid and this fact should be emphasized over and over again until its vital nature is fully understood.

GALVESTON, TEX.
NEWS

JUL 5 1934

REPORT SHOWS FEWER LYNCHINGS THAN LAST YEAR

There were two fewer lynchings during the first six months of 1934 in the United States than during the same period last year, according to Robert R. Moton, preident of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, Tuskegee, Ala. Six lynchings were recorded in the first half of 1934 and eight in the corresponding period of 1933. During the same period in 1932 there were five.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. Offenses charged were: Wounding man in altercation, criminal attack, attempted criminal attack, associating with white women, and striking a man. States in which lynchings occurred, and the number in each state were: Florida, one; Kentucky, one; Mississippi, two; Tennessee, one, and Texas, one.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
POST

JUL 12 1934

A State's Right?

The threat of federal interference removed when congress adjourned without passing the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, mob lawlessness again is spreading over the land.

In a Louisiana cross-roads town, a mob battered down the jail door, dragged a negro youth from his cell, slit his throat and hanged him to a tree. The prosecuting attorney and the sheriff meekly remonstrated.

"I sympathize with your attitude," said the prosecutor to the mob, "but I'm afraid you'll get into trouble."

The next day, the sheriff said he hadn't recognized a single member of the mob.

The youthful victim was arrested as a suspect after a white girl had reported that on a road 26 miles from the town a negro had attempted to attack her. There was no jury trial. There was not even an indictment.

Senator Huey Long was one of the Southern senators who shouted loudly about states' rights and prevented action on the anti-lynching bill. Does anyone believe the Kingfish will now have his governor enforce the state law? Hardly. It is easier to talk about a state's rights than to meet a state's responsibilities.

RICHMOND, VA.
TIMES DISPATCH

JUL 7 193[illegible]

Lynchings in the South

FIGURES compiled by the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute show that for the first half of this year there have been six lynchings in the United States.

All of the hapless victims ~~were Negroes~~ and all of them were done to death by Southern mobs.

This is a record which should bring a blush of shame to the cheeks of every person who loves the South and wishes it to enjoy the good opinion of the world.

Lynching under any conditions is inexcusable. It is an uncivilized, barbarous method of dealing with offenders against society—granting that all persons who fall under the fury oi mobs are guilty.

We have set up courts in this country to try men and women accused of crime. When the function of these tribunals is exercised by mobs, we are in a state bordering on chaos. For the moment our civilization has failed.

The man who commits murder as a member of a mob is invariably a coward. He finds strength in numbers to do his dirty work. Alone, he would shrink from the danger of it.

For its own sake, the South should invoke stern measures for dealing with those who engage in lynchings.

MARLIN, TEX.
DEMOCRAT

JUL 6 1934

Six Lynchings Occurred In First Half of Year

Two Less Than Same Period Last Year and One More Than Previous Year.

Records compiled at Tuskegee (Ala.) Institute in the department of records and research show that in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is two less than for the first six months of 1933 and one more than in the same period of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Wounding man in altercation 1, rape 1, attempted rape 2, associating with white woman 1, striking man 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state were: Mississippi 2, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas 1 each.

EL DORADO, KANS.
TIMES

JUL 5 1934

AN IMPROVED LYNCHING RECORD

The country's lynching record shows slight improvement. Six persons were lynched during the first six months of 1934, which is two less than during the same period in 1933. All of the persons lynched were negroes, and these instances of mob violence occurred in the states of Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas. The figures are furnished by the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute.

Any lynchings at all are too many. But so long as we can keep down the record to an average of one a month, or less, the country over, definite gain is registered. And maybe, some day, we will arrive at the point of common sense and sanity in this country where the practice of mobs taking the law into their own hands will cease entirely.

Sanford, N. C., Herald
July 12, 1934

IT'S ALL IN THE NAME

A report of the Tuskegee Institute, famed negro school of Alabama, states that during the first six months of this year six lynchings were performed: all victims were black and all states concerned were Southern.

Northern states, especially those of New England, have pointed to this survey in denouncing the backwardness and barbarism of the South, a section which, according to them, has failed to make progress where highest civilization is concerned.

In truth, however, lynchings are not confined to the South; indeed most of them do not occur here. The difference is that lynchings are called by another name in the North. When a mob kills there, a riot or demonstration is reported. It's the term lynching, not the action, that is peculiar to the South.

The toll of strikes and police raids, of gang wars and back alley executions, which flourish in the North, even in the Bible Belt of New England, should have been included in the Tuskegee report. Had such been included, the South would be simon pure in comparison to other quarters of these United States.

VALDOSTA, GA
TIMES

JUL 9 1934

LYNCHING IN GEORGIA NIL

Lynchings in the South for the first six months of 1934 were six in number. This is two less than the eight for the same period in 1933, and one more than the five for the same time in 1932.

These figures were compiled by the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

All the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Wounding ~~men~~ in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white women, 1; striking man, 1 .

The six lynchings for the year occurred in the states of Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas.

It will be noted that Georgia is not in the list this time. So far the name of this state has not been marred with an outbreak of mob law.

The way to prevent lynchings and other criminal offenses is to speed up the trial of criminals in the courts of the state. The Georgia Bar Association is attempting to have some provision made for speedy trials in all criminal cases.

With speedy trials and quick justice those who are tempted to take the law into their own hands will ponder long before taking part in lynchings and other forms of mob law.

It is hoped that the lynching record of Georgia may be kept spotless for the remainder of the year. The citizens have made a good start and a "good beginning makes a good ending."

Union City, Tenn. Commercial
July 13, 1934

The Lynching Record For The First Six Months 1934

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynching for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is two less than the number eight for the first six months of 1933; and one more tnan tne number five for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Wounding men in altercation 1; rape 1; attempted rape 2; associating with white women 1; striking man 1.

The states in which lynching occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida 1; Kentucky 1; Mississippi 2; Tennessee 1, and Texas 1.

Yours very truly,
Tuskegee Normal & Industrial Ins.,
Robert R. Morton, President

Elba, Ala., Clipper
July 19, 1934

LYNCHINGS IN STATE SHOW SLIGHT DECREASE

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 5.—Lynchings for the first six months of 1934 showed a decrease of two over the same period in 1933, with six in the current year against eight last year, an announcement from Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute shows.

All of the victims of lynchers were negroes, the report compiled by the department of records and research said, and all were in the Southern States.

The lynchings by States were as follows: Florida 1, Kentucky 1, Mississippi 2, Tennessee 1, and Texas 1.

Offenses with which the victims were charged were, wounding man in altercation 1, attack 1, attempted attack 2, associating with white woman 1, and striking man 1.

For the same period in 1932, the report stated, only five lynchings occurred.

West Palm Beach, Fla., Sun
July 13, 1934

Lynching Record Past Six Months

Six Persons, All Negroes, Are Lynched First Half Of Year

(Special to Tropical Sun)

Tuskegee, Ala., July 12.—According to the records of lynching in this country, which are compiled by the Tuskegee Institute, and released from time to time by President R. R. Moton of that institution, there were six persons lynched in the first half of the present year 1934.

This is an increase of one over the number of. five such for the first six months of the year 1932; but is two less than were lynched in the first six months of 1933, the number for that period having been eight.

The distribution of the lynchings for the present year show one each in Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, while there were two in the state of Mississippi.

All persons lynched this year were negroes, and the offenses charged against them were: rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1, and wounding man in altercation, 1.

Lynchings - 1934
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. - June

4845

Beaufort, N. C., News
July 5, 1934

Carteret's Two Races

WHILE WE ARE NOT GIVEN to lynchings down here in Carteret County, we are exceedingly glad that no lynchings have taken place in the Old North State during the first six months of this year. There were six lynchings during this time in the southeastern section of the United States, we are informed by Robert R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute.

It is significant that all six of these were Negroes. The offenses charged were: wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; and striking man, 1. These lynchings by states are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

A voluminous book could be written on the causes leading up to these lynchings. One significant fact is that the lynchings occurred largely in states with large Negro populations.

Lynchings in North Carolina are not unheard of, but are rare, very rare. Down here in Carteret County there has not been a lynching in a generation or two. Our people are, generally speaking, lawabiding; and when a white man or Negro is arrested for a crime we leave it to our established courts to settle.

Then again, our Negro population here in Carteret and Eastern Carolina is—largely —of a superior type. Fundamentally speaking, the white and the Negro races have many natural differences, but here in Carteret the two races have perhaps gotten along as well together as anywhere in the United States, and it is our sincere hope that this will ever continue without the stigma of lynching.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
July 8, 1934

MOB VIOLE E IN 1934

Both Georgia and Alabama came through the first six months of 1934 without a single lynching, and this is cause for gratification, since it shows a growing appreciation of the hideous nature of this offense.

During this six-months period there were six lynchings in the South, all of the victims being negroes. They occurred in Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas. There was one each in all these states, except in Mississippi, where two persons were the victims of mob law.

During the same period in 1933, there were eight lynchings in the South, 1934 showing a reduction of two.

Any reduction in the number of outbreaks of this nature is something to be appreciated, but the fact that there are any such events is to be deeply deplored.

The fact cannot be too often or too strongly stressed that outbreaks of lawlessness, for whatever cause, actually are assaults upon the safeguards that society has erected for its safety.

When mobs defy the law and take human life the big thing is not that a life has been sacrificed without due process of law, though this is bad enough. The big thing is that damage is being done to the wall of protection that the people have erected and which must be preserved if life and property are to be safe.

Those who indulge in such defiance of law are inviting perils that it is essential to avoid and this fact should be emphasized over and over again until its vital nature is fully understood.

Birmingham, Ala., News
July 7, 1934

ALABAMA WITHOUT LYNCHING THIS YEAR

Alabama has gone through the first half of 1934 without a lynching to place a blot on her record, and for this all citizens of the state should be extremely thankful. This state went for a number of years without a lynching, but recently the sheet has not always been kept clean. It is pleasing, therefore, to learn that we are once more back on the honor roll and we hope that we shall never again be out of the group of states which have no mob killings charged against them.

Records regarding lynchings this year have been compiled by the department of records and research at Tuekegee Institute. These show that six persons were lynched in the first six months of the year. That is two less than the total reported for the similar period in 1933, but one more than the number in the first half of 1932. All of those killed by mobs were Negroes.

All the states in which lynchings were reported are in the South. They are Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, with one each, and Mississippi, in which two were recorded.

Compared with 1933, the record for 1934 shows improvement, but we are confronted with the fact that there have been more lynchings this year than during the corresponding period of 1932, which indicates that there has been little progress in the elimination of mob violence in recent years. However, the decrease this year is gratifying, and it is to be hoped that a better report can be given for the second half of the year.—Anniston Star.

York, S. C. Enquirer
July 6, 1934

Scraps and Facts.

—Tuskegee, Ala.: Lynchings for the first six months of 1934 showed a decrease of two over the same period in 1933, with six in the current year against eight last year, says an announcement from Tuskegee normal and industrial institute. All of the victims of lynchers were negroes, the report compiled by the department of records and research said, and all were in southern states. The lynchings by states were as follows: Florida 1; Kentucky 1; Mississippi 2; Tennessee 1, and Texas 1.

Greenwood, S. C. Index-Journal
July 4, 1934

Six Lynchings In First Six Months

There were six lynchings in the country the first six months of this year, according to a report received today from R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee institute.

This is two less than the number eight for the first six months of 1933 and one more than the number five for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Wounding men in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1.

The state in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state were: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1, and Texas, 1.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
July 5, 1934

SIX LYNCHINGS IN PAST SIX MONTHS

Tuskegee, Ala., July 5.—(AP)—Six persons, all negroes, were lynched during the first six months of 1934, as compared with eight for the same months of 1933, the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute announced today.

Lynchings occurred in Mississippi, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, with the first named state having two and the others one.

Offenses charged against the negroes were: Wounding man in altercation, one; attack, one; attempted attack, two; associating with white woman, one, and striking man, one.

July 5, 1934
Greenville, S. C. Piedmont

Six Negroes In South Lynched First ~~Of~~ Year

Six persons, all negroes, were lynched during the first six months of this year, according to statistics compiled by the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute at Tuskegee, Ala.

This number of lynchings is two less than during the first six months of 1933, which had a total of eight. During the first six months of 1933 the number was five.

Two of this year's lynchings occured in Mississippi and one each in Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

The offenses charged were wounding man in altercation (1), criminal assault (1), attempted criminal assault (2), associating with white woman (1), and striking man (1).

Troy, Ala., Messenger
July 5, 1934

Lynchings Show Slight Decrease

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 5—(AP)—Lynchings for the first six months of 1934 showed a decrease of two over the same period in 1933, with six in the current year against eight last year, an announcement from Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute said.

All of the victims of lynchers were negroes, the report compiled by the department of records and research said, and all were in Southern States.

The lynchings by States were as follows: Florida 1, Kentucky 1, Mississippi 2, Tennessee 1, and Texas 1.

Offenses with which the victims were charged were, wounding man in altercation 1, attack 1, attempted attack 2, associating with white woman 1, and striking man 1.

For the same period in 1932, the report stated, only five lynchings occurred.

Oneida, Tenn. News
July 6, 1934

LYNCHING RECORD IN 1934 REPORT SHOWS

Be it resolved, therefore, th
we, the members and delegat

Records and research show that in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is 2 less than the number 8 for the first six months of 1933; and 1 more than the number 5 for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, one.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Florida ,1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
July 5, 1934

Lynchings Decrease During 1934, Report From Tuskegee Shows

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 5.—(AP)—Lynchings for the first months of 1934 showed a decrease of two over the same period in 1933, with six in the current year against eight last year, an announcement from Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute said Thursday.

All of the victims were negroes, the report compiled by the Department of Records and Research said, and all were in southern states. The lynchings by states were as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1, and Texas, 1.

Huntsville, Ala., Times
July 5, 1934

ONLY 6 WERE LYNCHED FIRST HALF OF 1934

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 5 (AP)—Six persons, all negroes, were lynched during the first six months of 1934, as compared with eight for the same months of 1933, the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute announced today.

Lynchings occurred in Mississippi, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, with the first named state having two, and the others one.

Offenses charged against the negroes were: wounding man in altercation, one; attack, one; attempted attack, two; associating with white woman, one, and striking man, one.

Moultrie, Ga., Observer
July 10, 1934

There was no lynching in Georgia for the first half of 1934, according to records kept at Tuskegee Institute. We are proud of this but it may be well to knock on wood. It has been the case in the past that when it looked as if we had gotten over the lynching habit another unfortunate affair would break out. There were only six lynchings in the country at large for the past six months, and while this is not the lowest record that has ever been made it is nevertheless. a good record.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
July 6, 1934

Lynchings in 1934

The semi-annual report on lynchings issued by the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute gives South Carolina a clean bill for the first half of the year 1934.

During the first six months of the year six persons, all negroes, were lynched in the United States. Last year during the first six months there were eight lynchings while in the same months of 1932 there were only five. The states in which lynchings have occurred in 1934 and the number in each state are: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

It should be encouraging to the citizens of South Carolina, its courts and peace officers to know that in the past six months not one of these vicious and disgraceful violations of law has been committed within its borders.

Concord, N. C. Tribune
July 5, 1934

LYNCHING RECORD FOR SIX MONTHS.

Figures compiled by Tuskegee Institute show six persons lynched in the United States during the first six months of 1934, the total being two less than the number for the first six months of 1933 and one more than the total for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched this year were negroes charged with: Wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1.

The lynchings occurred in: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

What we would like to know is the court records covering these cases. How many lynchers were apprehended? How many were tried? How many were convicted? How many were sentenced?

Lynching, like other law violations, is possible because the public permits it.

Asheville. N. C., Citizen
July 5, 1934

Lynchings Decrease During Past 6 Months

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 4. (AP)—Lynchings for the first six months of 1934 showed a decrease of two over the same period in 1933, with six in the current year against eight last year, an announcement from Tuskegee Normal and Industrial institute said today.

All of the victims of lynchers were negroes, the report compiled by the department of records and research said, and all were in southern states.

The lynchings by states were as follows: Florida 1; Kentucky 1; Mississippi 2; Tennessee 1, and Texas one.

Offenses with which the victims were charged were: Wounding man in altercation 1; attack 1; attempted attack 2, associating with white woman 1, and striking man, 1.

For the same period in 1932, the report stated, only five lynchings occurred.

Greensboro, N. C., News
July 5, 1934

SIX PERSONS LYNCHED FIRST HALF OF YEAR

Two In Mississippi and One Each In Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas.

TUSKEGEE'S STATISTICS

Six persons, all negroes, were lynched during the first six months of this year, according to statistics compiled by the department of records and research of Tuskegee institute at Tuskegee, Ala., a summary of which has been sent to the Daily News by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of the institution.

This number of lynchings is two less than during the first six months of 1933, which had a total of eight. During the first six months of 1932 the number was five.

Two of this year's lynchings occurred in Mississippi and one each in Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, the Tuskegee report shows.

The offenses charged were wounding man in altercation (1), criminal assault (1), attempted criminal assault (2), associating with white woman (1), and striking man (1).

Blakeley, Ga., News
July 5, 1934

Lynching Record For First Six Months Of 1934 Given

According to records compiled by R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee (Ala.) Institute, there were 6 lynchings in the United States in the first six months of 1934. This is 2 less than the number 8 for the first six months of 1933, and 1 more than than the number 5 for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred ond the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

Chattanooga, Tenn. Times
July 6, 1934

LYNCHING IN 1934.

Six persons were lynched in the United States in the first six months of this year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. All of the victims were Negroes and all of the crimes were committed in the South.

This record of fiendishness should be of particular interest to the people of Tennessee, inasmuch as this State is credited with one of the six mob executions. The other States credited with lynchings are Kentucky, Florida, Mississippi and Texas. Mississippi had two lynchings, the other States one each.

Although apologists for mob murder in the South usually speak of it as a means of protecting Southern womanhood, it appears that only one of the six lynchings was for rape. Another was for associating with a white woman and two were for attempted rape. One was for wounding a white man in an altercation and another was for striking a white man.

Obviously it requires very little to arouse the brute and blood lust in some whites. And lynchings for trivial causes, as well as lynchings for rape, may be expected to continue so long as public opinion condones the inactivity of law-enforcement agents and agencies when it comes to punishing lynchers.

Andalusia, Ala., Star
July 5, 1934

The Lynching Record For The First Six Months 1934

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is 2 less than the number (8) for the first six months of 1933; and 1 more than the number (5) for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white women, 1; striking man 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Florida, 1. Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

Lynchings-1934
Reports on, Sent Press.

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4846

SIX LYNCHINGS IN FIRST HALF OF 1934

Argus
7-6-34
St. Louis, Mo.

For the first six months of this year, according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research there were six lynchings. This is 2 less than the number 8 for the first six months of 1933; and 1 more than the number 5 for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

Lynchings Show Slight Decrease

Advertiser
7-5-34
Montgomery, Ala.

TUSKEGEE, ALA., July 4.—(AP)—Lynchings for the first six months of 1934 showed a decrease of two over the same period in 1933, with six in the current year against eight last year, an announcement from Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute said today.

All of the victims of lynchers were negroes, the report compiled by the department of records and research said, and all were in Southern States.

The lynchings by States were as follows: Florida 1; Kentucky 1; Mississippi 2; Tennessee 1, and Texas 1.

Offenses with which the victims were charged were, wounding man in altercation 1, attack 1, attempted attack 2, associating with white woman 1, and striking man 1.

For the same period in 1932, the report stated, only five lynchings occurred.

LYNCHINGS FOR 1934 SHOW SLIGHT DECREASE

Constitution
7-5-34
Atlanta, Ga.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 4.—(AP)—Lynchings for the first six months of 1934 showed a decrease of two over the same period in 1933 with six in the current year against eight last year, an announcement from Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute said today.

All of the victims of lynchers were negroes, the report compiled by the department of records and research said, and all were in southern states.

The lynchings by states were as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississipp, 2; Tennessee, 1, and Texas, 1.

Offenses with which the victims were charged were: Wounding man in altercation 1, attack 1, attempted attack 2, associating with white woman 1, and striking man 1.

For the same period in 1932, the report stated, only five lynchings occurred.

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6 Lynchings for 1934

The Guardian
7-7-34
Boston, Mass.

ONLY SLIGHT DECREASE FROM 1933 — ONE MORE THAN IN 1932.

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is two less than the number 8 for the first six months of 1933; and one more than the number 5 for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were "Negroes." The offenses charged were: wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
July 3, 1934

Six Lynchings Are Recorded In First Half Of Year 1934

Six lynchings were recorded during the first six months of 1934, according to information received from the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute in Alabama.

The total is two less than the number 8 for the first half of 1933, and one more than the number 5 for the first half of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee. 1, and Texas, 1.

LYNCHINGS DECLINE NOTED IN REPORT FROM TUSKEGEE

Tribune
7-12-34
Washington

TUSKEGEE, Ala. — A slight decrease in the number of lynchings for the past six months of 1934, was noted in a release from the Department of Records and late this week. Six persons were victimized by mob violence from January to the close of June.

This number is two less than the total number of lynchings in the corresponding period last year, the Tuskegee statistics show. In 1932 there were five lynchings.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: wounding man in altercation, 1; rape 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

Miami, Fla. Herald
July 7, 1934

FEWER LYNCHINGS

THE RECORD of lynchings for the first six months of 1934 show a slight falling off over the corresponding figures of 1933.

There were six lynchings in the first half of this year, which was two less than the number for the first six months of last year, but one more than in the year 1932, during the same months.

All of the persons lynched this year were negroes. The offenses charged were: Wounding man in an altercation; rape; attempted rape (2); associating with white women, and striking a man.

Lynchings during the six months occurred in Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi (2), Tennessee and Texas.

It is gratifying to know that lynchings are becoming fewer, on the average, each year and that they will rapidly disappear from the roll of crimes committed in the states.

Atlanta, Ga. Georgian
July 4, 1934

SIX LYNCHINGS IN 6 MONTHS

Six lynchings have been reported in the United States in the first six months of 1934, the Tuskegee Institute's Department of Records and Research announced Tuesday. There were no lynchings in Georgia.

The record represents two less than the eight slayings in the same period in 1933 and one more than the five reported for the first six months of 1932, the report showed.

All of the persons lynched were negroes, according to the records. Mississippi led the states with two lynchings. Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas reported one each.

New York Times

JUL 5 1934

LYNCHINGS UNDER 1933.

Decrease for Half Year Shown by Tuskegee Institute.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 4 (AP).—Lynchings for the first six months of 1934 showed a decrease of two under the same period in 1933, with six in the current year against eight last year, an announcement from Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute said today.

All of the victims of lynchers were Negroes, the report compiled by the department of records and research said, and all were in Southern States.

The Lynchings by States were as follows: Florida 1, Kentucky 1, Mississippi 2, Tennessee 1 and Texas 1.

Offenses with which the victims were charged were wounding man in altercation 1, attack 1, attempted attack 2, associating with white woman 1 and striking man 1.

For the same period in 1932, the report stated, only five lynchings occurred.

New York Herald-Tribune

JUL 5 1934

Six Lynchings in 1934 Two Below 1933 Period

All Victims Negroes, and All Were Killed in South

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 4 (AP).—Lynchings for the first six months of 1934 showed a decrease of two over the same period in 1933, with six in the current year against eight last year, an announcement from Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute said today. All of the victims of lynchers were Negroes, the report compiled by the department of records and research said, and all were in Southern states.

The lynchings by states were as follows: Florida, one; Kentucky, one; Mississippi, two; Tennessee, one, and Texas, one.

Offenses with which the victims were charged were: wounding man in altercation, one; attack, one; attempted attack, two; associating with white woman, one, and striking man, one.

For the same period in 1932, the report stated, only five lynchings occurred.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
July 5, 1934

Lynchings In 1934 Show Decrease

Tuckegee, Ala., July 4.—(AP)—Lynchings for the first six months of 1934 showed a decrease of two over the same period in 1933, with six in the current year against eight last year, an announcement from Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute said today.

All of the victims of lynchers were Negroes, the report compiled by the department of records and research said, and all were in Southern States.

The lynchings by States were as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1, and Texas one.

Milton, Fla., Gazette
July 5, 1934

SIX LYNCHINGS IN U. S. DURING FIRST SIX MONTHS OF YEAR

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is 2 less than the number 8 for the first six months of 1933; and I more than the number 5 for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Wounding man in altercation, 1; rape 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

SIX MONTHS WITHOUT A MOB

Alabama has gone through the first half of 1934 without a lynching to place a blot on her record and for this all citizens of the State should be extremely thankful. This State went for a number of years without a lynching, but recently the sheet has not always been kept clean. It is pleasing, therefore, to learn that we are once more back on the honor roll and we hope that we shall never again be out of the group of states which have no mob killings charged against them.—Anniston Star.

Alabama naturally desires to remain on the "honor roll." The State was well on its way to establish a permanently clean record with regard to lynching until neurotics and self-seekers made an issue of the "Scottsboro" affair so nasty that many Alabamians lost their sense of balance.

Lynchings Show Decrease For First Half of 1934

Call

7-13-34

Kansas City, Mo.

TUSKEGEE. — A decrease in lynchings for the first six months of 1934 over the same period in 1933 was show in an announcement from Tuskegee institute, Thursday, July 5.

Six lynchings were recorded in the sixth-month period of the current year over against eight for last year.

All of the victims of lynchers were Negroes, the report compiled by the department of records and research said, and all wer in south-research said, and all were in southern states.

The lynchings by states: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennesee, 1, and Texas, 1.

NEW YORK
[redacted] WORLD —
Telegram

JUL 5 1934

LYNCHINGS SHOW DROP

Are Two Under Last Year's for First Six Months—Victims Negroes.

By the Associated Press.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 5.—Lynchings for the first six months of 1934 showed a decrease of two over the some period in 1933, with six in the current year against eight last year, an announcement from Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute said today.

All of the victims were Negroes in Southern States.

Lakeland, Fla., Ledger
July 5, 1934

Lynching Record First Six Months

Six persons, all colored, were lynched during the first six months of 1934, according to records kept by the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial institute, Tuskegee, Ala., and released by President Robert R. Moton. The number was two less than for the same period last year.

The offenses charged were: Wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1, and Texas, 1.

BROOKLYN CITIZEN

JUL 5 1934

Six Month's Lynchings

To the, Editor of ~~the Citizen~~:

Sir: I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the [illegible]ls compiled at Tuskegee Institute, in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is two less than the number eight for the first six months of 1933; and one more than the number five for the first six months of 1932

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Wounding man in altercation, one; rape, one; attempted rape, two; associating with white women, one; striking man, one.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Florida, one; Kentucky, one; Mississippi, two; Tennessee, one; Texas, one.

Yours very truly,
R. R. MORTON,
President.

DECATUR, ILL.
HERALD

JUL 7 1934

Lynchings and Mob Rule

A report issued by the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial institute, the school for Negroes organized by the late Booker T. Washington, shows that lynching is comparatively rare these days, compared with the situation 20 or 30 years ago.

The institute's report shows that only six persons were lynched in this country during the six months ended June 30, which is two less than for the same period in 1933, and one more than in 1932.

All of the persons lynched were colored. The offenses charged included one for wounding a man in an altercation, one rape, two attempted rape, one associating with a white woman, and one for striking a man. All of these lynchings were in the South.

From the above list it appears that Negroes are the only persons lynched. Nevertheless the mob spirit in northern cities is by no means negligible. Incitement to violence in the North seems to center around labor disputes. The gangster rule also offers an excuse for summarily dealing with outlaws, of which the Dillinger gang is an example.

Few persons would hesitate to kill John Dillinger on sight, if they had the chance, and were sure they would not miss.

The mob spirit, South or North, is by no means dead, nor even dying. The fact seems to be that the Berseker in us has never been subdued, and when sufficiently excited even the civilized modern knows no bounds to his anger.

It might be well for all of us to remember that "Thou shall not kill" is still one of the ten commandments, and that the beast within us is not yet dead.

URBANA, ILL.
COURIER

JUL 7 1934

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It might be well for all of us to remember that "Thou shall not kill" is still one of the ten commandments, and that the beast within us is not yet dead.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.
ADVERTISER

JUL 9 1934

SIX MONTHS WITHOUT A MOB

Alabama has gone through the first half of 1934 without a lynching to place a blot on her record and for this all citizens of the State should be extremely thankful. This State went for a number of years without a lynching, but recently the sheet has not always been kept clean. It is pleasing, therefore, to learn that we are once more back on the honor roll and we hope that we shall never again be out of the group of states which have no mob killings charged against them.—Anniston Star.

Alabama naturally desires to remain on the "honor roll." The State was well on its way to establish a permanently clean record with regard to lynching until neurotics and self-seekers made an issue of the "Scottsboro" affair so nasty that many Alabamians lost their sense of balance.

YOUNGSTOWN, O.
TELEGRAM

JUL 9 1934

Letters To The Editor

THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS

EDITOR TELEGRAM — I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research that in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is two less than the number, eight, for the first six months of 1933, and one more than the number, five, for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were Negros. The offenses charged were: Wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1, and Texas, 1.

Yours very truly,
R. R. MOTON,
President, Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute.

nchings- 1934
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. - June

4847

BRYAN, TEX.
EAGLE

JUL 4 1934

Lynchings Decrease

The record of lynchings for the first half of 1934 shows that six negroes were executed at the hands of mobs, all six outbreaks occurring in Southern states, one of which was Texas. This record shows that two less lynchings were recorded the first half of this year than in 1933, while it was one more than the record for the same period in 1932.

Study of the records for the past few years shows that lynchings are steadily decreasing, the number not even approaching that of a decade or more ago. This is due, largely, to an increased respect for law, and, also, to the fact that the type of offense which causes most lynchings is recorded less frequently.

There is no law violation so grave that the courts should not be given an opportunity to administer justice to the offender. Neither is there any question but that in cases where it might be argued that lynching was justified the courts would function if given an opportunity. What is needed is a strong public opinion favoring the speedy enactment of justice. Officers and courts, backed by this, may be expected to function to the general satisfaction of all right thinking citizens.

FARIBAULT, MINN.
NEWS

JUL 9 1934

Lynching

According to the record compiled by the Tuskegee Institute, lynching has been on the decline.. Six lynchings in the first half of the year, which is six too many.

In the first six months of 1933 there were eight lynchings and in the same period in 1932 there were five or one less than this year.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white women, 1; striking man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

NEWS
SAULTE STE .MARIE, MICH.

JUL 11 1934

Lynchings Decrease

The president of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, founded by Booker Washington for the training of colored young men and women, reports every six months concerning lynchings. President Moton's records show that there have been six lynchings in the half year ending June 30, 1934. This is two less than in 1933 for the same six months and one more than for the first six months of 1932.

Lynchings occurred in Mississippi, Kentucky, Florida, Tennessee and Texas. Society is steadily becoming conscious of the desirability to let the law take its course and these figures show that the South is working out its problems in a legal manner. The lynching Monday night of a Negro farmer in Louisiana is an exception rather than the rule.

EAST ST. LOUIS, ILL.
JOURNAL

JUL 9 1934

LYNCHINGS AND MOB RULE

A report issued by the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial institute, the school for Negroes organized by the late Booker T. Washington, shows that lynching is comparatively rare these days, compared with the situation 20 or 30 years ago.

The institute's report shows that only six persons were lynched in this country during the six months ended June 30, which is two less than for the same period in 1933, and one more than in 1932.

All of the persons lynched were colored. The offenses charged included one for wounding a man in an altercation, one rape, two attempted rape, one associating with a white woman, and one for striking a man. All of these lynchings were in the South.

From the above list it appears that Negroes are the only persons lynched. Nevertheless, the mob spirit in northern cities is by no means negligible. Incitement to violence in the North seems to center around labor disputes. The gangster rule also offers an excuse for summarily dealing with outlaws, of which the Dillinger gang is an example.

Few persons would hesitate to kill John Dillinger on sight, if they had the chance, and were sure they would not miss.

The mob spirit, South or North, is by no means dead, nor even dying. The fact seems to be that the Berserker in us has never been subdued, and when sufficiently excited even the civilized modern knows no bounds to his anger.

It might be well for all of us to remember that "Thou shalt not kill" is still one of the ten commandments, and that the beast within us is not yet dead.

LAFAYETTE, IND.
JOURNAL & COURIER

JUL 6 1934

RECORD OF LYNCHINGS

From President Robert R. Moton of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial institute, Tuskegee, Ala., comes a statement dealing with the lynching record for the first six months of the year 1934 Dr. Moton's summary follows:

"I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee institute in the department of records and research that in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is 2 less than the number 8 for the first six months of 1933; and 1 more than the number 5 for the first six months of 1932.

"All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1.

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1."

ANNISTON, ALA.
STAR

JUL 5 1934

Alabama Without Lynching This Year

Alabama has gone through the first half of 1934 without a lynching to place a blot on her record and for this all citizens of the state should be extremely thankful. This state went for a number of years without a lynching, but recently the sheet has not always been kept clean. It is pleasing, therefore, to learn that we are once more back on the honor roll and we hope that we shall never again be out of the group of states which have no mob killings charged against them.

Records regarding lynchings this year have been compiled by the department of records and research at Tuskegee Institute. These show that six persons were lynched in the first six months of the year. That is two less than the total reported for the similar period in 1933, but one more than the number in the first half of 1932. All of those killed by mobs were negroes.

All the states in which lynchings were reported are in the South. They are Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, with one each, and Mississippi, in which two were recorded.

Compared with 1933 the record for 1934 shows improvement, but we are confronted with the fact that there have been more lynchings this year than during the corresponding period of 1932, which indicates that there has been little progress in the elimination of mob violence in recent years. However, the decrease this year is gratifying and it is to be hoped that a better report can be given for the second half of the year.

LOUISIANA MOB HANGS MAN AT COURT HOUSE

Six Persons Lynched First Six Months of This Year

Encouraged perhaps by the failure of Congress to consider the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill before adjournment last month mobs in three different states have recently lynched Negroes accused of various offenses.

The last lynching occurred at Bastrop, La., when a mob of 300 persons hung Andrew McLeod from a tree on the court house lawn Monday night of this week. The 26-year-old man was accussed of attacking a 19-year-old white girl of Bastrop early Sunday morning on the highway near the city.

The mob formed on the outskirts of the city and at night fall marched to the jail where they met no opposition from officers. After battering down the jail door the mob took the prisoner from his cell where they found him hiding in a corner. He begged the mob to spare his life, but no attention was paid to his pleas. He was seized by the group of infuriated men, carried to the court house lawn a block away and hanged from the branch of a large oak.

Leave Body On Tree

After their revenge was satisfied and they were certain that their victime was dead, the mob dispersed leaving the body dangling from the tree, but a few other citizens, it is reported, came up and cut the body down.

The jail officials and local police have made no attempt, so far as is known, to arrest or identify the mob leaders. Nor have any officials planned an investigation of the mob's action.

1934 Lynchings

The toll of lynch mobs for the first six months of this year, according to statistics compiled by the department of research of Tuskegee Institute at Tuskegee, Ala., was six, all of whom were Negroes. A summary of the lynching record was released recently by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee.

Twenty-eight persons were lynched last year. The number of lynchings for the first six months this year is two less than the number for the same period last year when eight persons were lynched. Only five persons were lynched during the first six months of 1932, the report shows.

Mississippi Leads

Mississippi which has a bad reputation is responsible for two of the lynchings this year, and one each occurred in Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas the report shows.

As has been the trend in recent years, attempted rape does not represent all the charges against those who have been lynched. According to the Tuskegee record the charges were as follows: wounding man in altercation, 1; criminal assault, 1; attempted criminal assault, 2; associating with white women, 1, and striking man, 1.

Three lynchings have occurred since Congress adjourned, one of which happened in Tennessee, home state of Senator Kenneth McKellar, who killed the Costigan-Wagner antilynching bill during the last days of Congress by objecting to unanimous consent agreement to consider the bill on the floor of the Senate.

Chester, S. C., News
July 10, 1934

THE LYNCHING RECORD

The lynching record for the country during the fist six months of the year reached six, as compared with eight during the corresponding period of last year and five for the year before. Thus it appears to have remained about normal for the first six months of the past three years.

Mississippi heads the list of lynching states with two, with Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Texas tieing for second place with one each. South Carolina is one of the favored states with no such crime reported against it. All of the victims were negroes. The offenses charged were: Wounding man in fight, one; striking man, one; associating with white woman one; criminal assault or attempted criminal assault, three.

While this record is better than the one of years ago, it still leaves a blot on the South that is deplored by all thinking people. We have legal machinery for dealing with all the offenses committed and, although it sometimes appears to move with entirely too much deliberateness, citizens will increase their self respect and sense of civic worth by cooperating with the law rather than taking it into their own hands and violating it anew.—Greenville News.

Chattanooga, Tenn.
TIMES
JUL 6 1934

LYNCHING IN 1934.

Six persons were lynched in the United States in the first six months of this year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. All of the victims were Negroes and all of the crimes were committed in the South.

This record of fiendishness should be of particular interest to the people of Tennessee, inasmuch as this State is credited with one of the six mob executions. The other States credited with lynchings are Kentucky, Florida, Mississippi and Texas. Mississippi had two lynchings, the other States one each.

Although apologists for mob murder in the South usually speak of it as a means of protecting Southern womanhood, it appears that only one of the six lynchings was for rape. Another was for associating with a white woman and two were for attempted rape. One was for wounding a white man in an altercation and another was for striking a white man.

Obviously it requires very little to arouse the brute and blood lust in some whites. And lynchings for trivial causes, as well as lynchings for rape, may be expected to continue so long as public opinion condones the inactivity of law-enforcement agents and agencies when it comes to punishing lynchers.

Tuskegee Report Shows 6 Lynchings First Half of '34

7-13-34

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research during the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is 2 less than the number 8 for the first six months of 1933; and 1 more than the number 5 for the first six months of 1932.

Des Moines Iowa

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: wounding a man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white women, 1; striking man, 1. The states in which lynchings occured and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

SIX LYNCHINGS FIRST SIX MONTHS

7-13-34

Tuskegee, Ala.,—According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, during the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is 2 less than the number 8 for the first six months of 1933; and 1 more than the number 5 for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charges were: Wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempting rape, 2; associating with white women, 1 striking man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occured and the number in each state as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

DES MOINES, IA.
TRIBUNE CAPITAL
JUL 6 1934

ONE IS TOO MANY.

The states that contributed lynchings to the record during the first six months of 1934 were Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, and Mississippi, the latter being responsible for two. The great preponderance of such violence continues to occur in the southern states, therefore.

As it happened, the 6 lynchings were 2 less than during the same period of 1933, and 1 more than during the first six months of 1932. The victims were all Negroes, and the charges (not proved, of course) were in three cases "attacking a man" or "associating with a white woman."

The total of lynchings promises, at the midyear, to be small again—if a dozen illegal and barbaric murders can be called "small" in any sense. At any rate the number has declined from 130 in 1901, for example, to 8 in 1932.

Naturally, any lynchings at all are too many in an ostensibly civilized society and a reputedly just nation.

JAMESTOWN, N. Y.
MORNING POST
JUL 5 1934

HALF-YEAR'S LYNCHINGS.

The lynching record for the first six months of this year, as announced by Tuskegee Institute, notwithstanding that it is somewhat more favorable than in the corresponding period in 1933, is not such as to cause satisfaction. Five cases of summary illegal execution are reported, all negroes. All occurred in the South. Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas had one each, while Mississippi had two. While the total is two less than in the first half of last year, it is one more than in 1932 within the same time.

That any lynchings occur reveals the readiness to resort to lawlessness in penalty for other lawlessness. This seizure of the function of the law is rarely caused by a fear that the guilty will escape. In no place south of the Mason and Dixon line is a negro likely to receive undue favor in a court. The real difficulty for him lies in securing justice. Therefore, there is not the excuse that courts have failed.

It is true that many Southerners oppose lynching and have sought strenuously to prevent mobs from taking the law into their own hands, but they seem unable to influence those who most need to have emphasized the fact of the injury they inflict by the lawless course. Lynchings are significant of the lingering relics of barbarism.

CUSE, N. Y.
POST STANDARD
JUL 7 1934

Figures on Lynchings

To the Editor of The Post-Standard:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research that in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is two less than the number, eight, for the first six months of 1933, and one more than the number, five, for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Wounding man in altercation, one; criminal assault, one; attempted criminal assault, two; associating with white woman, one; striking man, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, one; Kentucky, one; Mississippi, two; Tennessee, one; and Texas, one.

R. R. MOTON, President.
Tuskegee, Ala.

Lynchings - 1934
Reports on, Sent Press

Jan.-June.

4848

SAN ANTONIO, TEX.
EXPRESS
JUL 6 1934

FIGHT OF ORDERED JUSTICE AGAINST THE MOB

Though it indicates some improvement over the 1933 record, the report of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute on lynchings during the first half of this year reveals a situation far from encouraging. Six mob-murders are reported, as compared with eight during the first half of 1933 and five for the like period of 1932.

All the victims were negroes, but only three were charged with criminal assault. The Texas lynching—at Kirbyville last month—was peculiarly revolting. The mob overpowered officers, seized the victim, hanged him and later dragged the nude, mangled body about the streets. Surely that was a case calling for thorough investigation, vigorous prosecution and punishment of the perpetrators. Such handling of the outrage would contribute as much as anything toward ridding Texas of an old, persistent evil.

This State is charged with but that one mob crime so far this year, while law officers—by courage and resourcefulness — averted several threatened lynchings. That is the other and brighter side to the picture. Until conditions shall change fundamentally, Texas and other "lynching States" will need officers who dare resist the mob.

Therefore, it is well that the Commission on Interracial Co-operation—with headquarters in Atlanta—should recognize such acts with gold medals. Several have been bestowed in Texas and others doubtless are due. However, the most hopeful developments have been in fields of education and public opinion. The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching is wielding an increasing influence. Though the church repeatedly has lifted its voice against this evil, the declaration by the Southern Methodist Women's Missionary Council last March—advocating Federal anti-lynching legislation and denouncing "the local courts' weakness in dealing with mobs"—was most significant.

Perhaps little can be expected from new laws, either Federal or State; but an enlightened civic sentiment can eradicate the infamy. By such means the long fight of ordered justice against the mob is being won—though too slowly.

MANKATO, MINN.
FREE PRESS
JUL 6 1934

Record of Lynchings

Lynchings for the first six months of 1934 are just 25 better than they were for the same period of 1933. That is some cause for rejoicing, but little enough. Six lynchings in a half year are just six too many. And the cause was obvious—all the victims were Negroes. Racial hatreds still flame beyond control.

In the first six months of 1933 there were eight lynchings and in the same period in 1932 there were five, or one less than this year.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

NEWARK, N. J.
LEDGER
JUL 5 1934

Decrease Seen In Lynchings

Lynch law was invoked six times during the past six months in the United States, it was shown in a survey made public yesterday by Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. All victims were colored.

Robert R. Moton, president of the institute, pointed out this was a decrease in comparison with the first six months of 1933 when eight lynchings were reported.

The record of lynchings this year shows one in Florida, one in Kentucky, two in Mississippi, one in Tennessee and one in Texas. There were no lynchings north of the Mason-Dixon line.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
NEWS
JUL 7 1934

ALABAMA WITHOUT LYNCHING THIS YEAR

Alabama has gone through the first half of 1934 without a lynching to place a blot on her record, and for this all citizens of the state should be extremely thankful. This state went for a number of years without a lynching, but recently the sheet has not always been kept clean. It is pleasing, therefore, to learn that we are once more back on the honor roll and we hope that we shall never again be out of the group of states which have no mob killings charged against them.

Records regarding lynchings this year have been compiled by the department of records and research at Tuekegee Institute. These show that six persons were lynched in the first six months of the year. That is two less than the total reported for the similar period in 1933, but one more than the number in the first half of 1932. All of those killed by mobs were Negroes.

All the states in which lynchings were reported are in the South. They are Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, with one each, and Mississippi, in which two were recorded.

Compared with 1933, the record for 1934 shows improvement, but we are confronted with the fact that there have been more lynchings this year than during the corresponding period of 1932, which indicates that there has been little progress in the elimination of mob violence in recent years. However, the decrease this year is gratifying, and it is to be hoped that a better report can be given for the second half of the year.—Anniston Star.

DAYTON, O.
NEWS
JUL 6 1934

THE LYNCHING RECORD

To the Editor of The News:

I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research that in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is two less than the number eight for the first six months of 1933; and one more than the number five for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; Texas, 1.

R. R. MOTON,
President, Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute.
Tuskegee, Ala.

Roanoke, Ala., Leader
July 11, 1934

LYNCHING RECORD FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS 1934

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is 2 less than the number 8 for the first six months of 1933; and 1 more than the number 5 for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; Texas, 1.

PITTSBURG, KANS.
HEADLIGHT
JUL 6 1934

THE LYNCHING RECORD.

Six lynchings occurred in the United States in the first half of 1934, according to the records compiled at Tuskegee. The year thus far, therefore, makes a better showing than last year when eight victims were lynched but not as good as the first half of 1932 when the number was five.

All of the 1934 lynchings were in southern states and all of the victims were Negroes. Mississippi leads with the record of having lynched two.

While the improvement in numbers is encouraging, it is noted that not one of the victims was accused of murder. One of the men lynched was charged with wounding a white man in an altercation. One was charged with rape and two with attempted rape. One of the others was accused of associating with white women. The other victim was seized for striking a white man.

The offenses for which these victims were slain by mobs were in three cases, on the face of them minor. Certainly they do not rank with capital offenses. That fact is more important in any consideration of the lynching record for the half year than the comparison in numbers.

ATLANTA, GA.
GEORGIAN
JUL 4 1934

SIX LYNCHINGS IN 6 MONTHS

Six lynchings have been reported in the United States in the first six months of 1934, the Tuskegee Institute's Department of Records and Research announced Tuesday. There were no lynchings in Georgia.

The record represents two less than the eight slayings in the same period in 1933 and one more than the five reported for the first six months of 1932, the report showed.

All of the persons lynched were negroes, according to the records. Mississippi led the states with two lynchings. Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas reported one each.

Somerset, Ky. Commonwealth
July 11, 1934

SIX LYNCHED IN FIRST SIX MONTHS OF YEAR

Tuskegee, Ala., July 4.—Lynchings for the first six months of 1934 showed a decrease of two over the same period in 1933, with six in the current year against eight last year, an announcement from Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute said today.

All of the victims of lynchers were negroes, the report compiled by the department of records and research said, and all were in southern states.

The lynchings by states were as follows: Florida 1; Kentucky 1; Mississippi 2; Tennessee 1, and Texas 1.

SPRINGFIELD, O.
NEWS

JUL 8 1934

THE LYNCHING RECORD

To the Editor of The News-Sun:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year:

I find, according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research, that in the first six months of 1934, there were six lynchings.

This is two less than the number, eight, for the first six months of 1933; and one more than the number, five, for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were colored. The offenses charged were: Wounding man in altercation, one; rape, one; attempted rape, two; associating with white woman, one; striking man, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, one; Kentucky, one; Mississippi, two; Tennessee, one, and Texas, two.

R. R. MOTON.

President,
Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute,
Tuskegee, Ala., July 6, 1934.

BOSTON, MASS.
TRANSCRIPT

JUL 7 1934

THE LYNCHING RECORD

To the Editor of the Transcript:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find, according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research, that in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is two less than the number eight for the first six months of 1933; and one more than the number five for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

R. R. MOTON,
President, Tuskegee Institute.

MIAMI, FLA.
HERALD

JUL 7 1934

FEWER LYNCHINGS

THE RECORD of lynchings for the first six months of 1934 show a slight falling off over the corresponding figures of 1933.

There were six lynchings in the first half of this year, which was two less than the number for the first six months of last year, but one more than in the year 1932, during the same

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months.

All of the persons lynched this year were negroes. The offenses charged were: Wounding man in an altercation; rape; attempted rape (2); associating with white women, and striking a man.

Lynchings during the six months occurred in Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi (2), Tennessee and Texas.

It is gratifying to know that lynchings are becoming fewer, on the average, each year and that they will rapidly disappear from the roll of crimes committed in the states.

Evergreen Ala Courant
July 12, 1934

LYNCHING RECORD FOR FIST SIX MONTHS, 1934

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is 2 less than the number 8 for the first six months of 1933; and 1 more than the number 5 for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

LINCOLN, NEB.
STATE JOURNAL

JUL 8 1934

A lynching took place in Tennessee which demonstrates the feeling of superiority the white man entertains when in contact with his dark skinned brother. A white man went to a Negro dance. He had no business there and he became offensive. A Negro slapped the white. Later the Negro who did the slapping was lynched, killed in a most inhuman manner. There was no sense or justice in the affair. Tennessee will command no respect if this murder is permitted to go unpunished.

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.
TIMES STAR

JUL 6 1934

LYNCHING RECORD FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS 1934

Editor Times-Star:—I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is 2 less than the number 8 for the first six months of 1933; and 1 more than the number 5 for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows. Florida, 1. Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

ROBERT R. MORTON
President, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.
POST

JUL 7 1934

LYNCHING FOR 1934

Statistics For the First Six Months Submitted by President of Tuskegee

To the Editor:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, that in the first six months of 1934, there were six lynchings. This is 2 less than the number 8 for the first six months of 1933; and 1 more than the number 5 for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offense charged were: wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occured and the number of each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

R. R. MOTON,
President of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama.

ROME, N. Y.
SENTINEL

JUL 6 1934

Still Too Many Lynchings

Tuskegee Institute, which endeavors to keep an accurate record of lynchings within the United States, announces that in the first six months of 1934 there were six such illegal executions—all the victims being Negroes. Within the same period last year there were eight, and in the first half of 1932, five. The reasons pleaded for this year's killings were: Wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1. There were two lynchings in Mississippi and one each in Florida, Kentucky, Tenessee and Texas.

Lynchings are far fewer than they were for a long period; but they have not declined uniformly, comparing the yearly totals. Last year's aggregate included the lynching of the two white men in San Jose, California, which was approved by the governor of the state, who has since died. This year's statistics show, as has so often been the case of recent years, that the illegal killings are not reserved exclusively for punishing rape of white women by Negroes. Once upona time Southerners insisted the honor of their women depended upon the instant death of Negroes who thus transgressed; but lawlessness applied in one direction almost always is extended in others.

COLUMBUS, O.
DISPATCH

JUL 7 1934

THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR 1934

To the Editor of The Dispatch.

Sir: I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year: I find, according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute, in the department of records and research, that in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is two less than the number, eight, for the first six months of 1933, and one more than the number, five, for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Wounding man in altercation, one; rape, one; attempted rape, two; associating with white woman, one; striking man, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, one; Kentucky, one; Mississippi, two; Tennessee, one, and Texas, 1.

R. R. Moton, President.
Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, July 3, 1934.

MARLIN, TEX.
DEMOCRAT

JUL 4 1934

Six Lynchings Occurred In First Half of Year

Two Less Than Same Period Last Year and One More Than Previous Year.

Records compiled at Tuskegee (Ala.) Institute in the department of records and research show that in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is two less than for the first six months of 1933 and one more than in the same period of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Wounding man in altercation 1, rape 1, attempted rape 2, associating with white woman 1, striking man 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state were: Mississippi 2, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas 1 each.

HAVERHILL, MASS.
EVE. GAZETTE

JUL 6 1934

Lynching Record

To the Editor of The Gazette: I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research that in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is two less than the number eight for the first six months of 1933; and one more than the number five for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: wounding man in altercation, one; rape, one; attempted rape, two; association with white woman, one; striking man, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, one; Kentucky, one; Mississippi, two; Tennessee, one; and Texas, one.

(Signed) R. R. MOTON
President,
Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute

Lynchings - 1934
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. - June

4849

Chattanooga, Tenn.
July 5, 1934

We Have No Excuse

PRESIDENT Robert R. Moton, of Tuskegee Institute, sends us his six months' report on lynchings. It shows that six persons, all Negroes, were deprived of legal trial and done to death by mobs during the first half of 1934. The charges were: Wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1. This is two less than were lynched during the same period in 1933, but one more than in 1932.

We can be neither civilized, law-abiding nor Christian so long as we seize defenseless blacks, some of whom are undoubtedly innocent and none of whom have been proven guilty, and wreak our racial hatred upon them.

We pretend a pious shudder when Germany summarily executes, without benefit even of court martial, men accused of plotting against Hitler's party. But we don't even have the excuse of patriotism for our lynching crimes.

Columbus, Ga. Enquirer-Sun
July 6, 1934

LYNCHING RECORD

A record of lynchings compiled at Tuskegee Institute in its department of records and research, shows that in the first six months of 1934, there were six lynchings. This is two less than for the first six months of 1933; and one more than the number for the first six months of 1932. All of those lynched were negroes.

The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state were: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1, and Texas, 1.

It will be noticed from the above that Georgia and Alabama are not among the states named, no lynching having occurred within their borders this year.

An effort is being made in Georgia by the bar associations and others interested in law and order to speed up trial of cases in the courts. Long delays such as have prevailed in the past in the trial of many cases which excited a certain element of the population are believed to be partly responsible for mob action. The plan to remove these delays indicates the offenders shall be brought to trial more promptly and therefore stop the wearing away of the patience of the people and the tendency to aid the offender in escaping just punishment for his crime. With the bringing to justice of those charged with serious crimes within a reasonable time, and the assurance that such cases will be duly tried, will retard those who attempt to take the law into their own hands.

Georgia and Alabama have made a good record by he absence of lynching to this period of 1934. It is hoped that the record will continue throughout the whole year. Lynching has no place in our social fabric.

Morristown, Tenn., Gazette
July 6, 1934

Lynchings Decrease In South During Year

Tuskegee, Ala., July 6.—Lynchings for the first six months of 1934 showed a decrease or two over the same period in 1933, with six in the current year against eight last year, an announcement from the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute states.

All of the victims of lynchers were Negroes, the report compiled by the department of records and research said, and all were in southern states.

Thel ynchings by states were as follows: Florida, one; Kentucky, one; Mississippi, two; Tennessee, one, and Texas, one.

Offenses with which the victims were charged were: Wounding man in altercation, one; attack, one; attempted attack, two; associating with white woman, one, and striking man, one.

For the same period in 1932, the report stated, only five lynchings occurred.

Opelika, Ala. News
July 5, 1934

LYNCHINGS IN PAST 6 MONTHS DECREASE

Tuskegee, Ala., July 5.—(AP)—Lynchings for the first six months of 1934 showed a decrease of two over the same period in 1933, with six in the current year against eight last year, an announcement from Tuskegee said yesterday.

All of the victims of lyncher were negroes, the report compiled by the department of records and research said, and all were in Southern states.

The lynchings by states were as follows: Florida 1; Kentucky 1; Mississippi 2; Tennessee 1, and Texas 1.

Offenses with which the victims were charged were, wounding man in altercation 1, attack 1, attempted attack 2, associating with white woman 1, and striking man 1.

For the same period in 1932, the report stated, only five lynchings occurred.

Talladega, Ala., News
July 5, 1934

LYNCHINGS IN DIXIE SHOWING DECREASE

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 5.—Lynchings for the first six months of 1934 showed a decrease of two over the same period in 1933, with six in the current year against eight last year, an announcement from Tuskegee normal and industrial insttute said.

All the victims of lynchers were negroes, the report compiled by the department of records and research said, and all were in Southern states.

The lynchings by states were as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1, and Texas 1.

Offenses with which the victims were charged were, wounding man in altercation, 1; attack, 1; attempt attack, 2; associating with white women. 1, and striking man, 1.

For the same period in 1932 the report stated, only five lynchings occurred.

Newbern, Tenn. Tennessean
July 5, 1934

LYNCHING RECORD FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1934

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is two less than the number eight for the first six months of 1933; and one more than the number five for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: wounding men in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white women, 1; striking man, 1.

The sttaes in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1, and Texas, 1.

Clayton, Ala., Record
July 6, 1934

LYNCHINGS SHOW SLIGHT DECREASE

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TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 4.—Lynchings for the first six months of 1934 showed a decrease of two over the same period in 1933, with six in the current year against eight last year, an announcement from Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute said today.

All of the victims of lynchers were negroes, the report compiled by the department of records and research said, and all were in Southern States.

The lynchings by States were as follows: Florida 1; Kentucky 1; Mississippi 2; Tennessee 1, and Texas 1.

Offenses with which the victims were charged were, wounding man in altercation 1, attack 1, attempted attack 2, associating with white woman 1, and striking man 1.

For the same period in 1932 the report stated, only five lynchings occurred.

Chester, S. C., Reporter
July 5, 1934

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is 2 less than the number 8 for the first six months of 1933; and 1 more than the number 5 for the first six months of 1932. All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Wounding men in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1. The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1: Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas. 1.

Wetumpka, Ala., Herald
July 5, 1934

NO LYNCHING IN ALABAMA THE FIRST SIX MONTHS 1934

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is 2 less than the number 8 for the first six months of 1933; and 1 more than the number 5 for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; asosciating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1.

The States in which lynchings occured and the number in each State are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

Monroe, N. C. Enquirer
July 5, 1934

SIX PERSONS LYNCHED FIRST HALF OF YEAR

Two In Mississippi and One Each In Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Texas.

Six persons, all negroes, were lynched during the first six months of this year, according to statistics compiled by the department of records and research of Tuskegee institute at Tuskegee, Ala., according to R. R. Motton, president of the institution.

This number of lynchings is two less than during the first six months of 1933, which had a total of eight. During the first six months of 1932 the number was five.

Two of this year's lynchings occurred in Mississippi and one each in Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, the Tuskegee report shows.

The offenses charged were woundman in altercation (1), criminal assault (1), attempted criminal assault (2), associating with white woman (1), and striking man (1).

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont
July 7, 1934

Lynchings

LYNCHINGS ~~in the~~ first six months of this year numbered six, or two less than in the corresponding period of last year.

States in which they occurred and the number in each were: Florida 1, Kentucky 1, Mississippi 2, Tennessee 1 and Texas 1.

Thanks to Sheriff Smith, Jailor Moser and their associates, who nipped a lynching in the bud, Greenville County did not drag South Carolina's name into the list.

Birmingham, Ala., News
July 5, 1934

SIX NEGROES LYNCHED

Record For First Half Of Year Ahead Of 1933

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—(AP)—Six persons, all Negroes, were lynched during the first six months of 1934, as compared with eight for the same months of 1933, the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute announced Thursday.

Lynchings occurred in Mississippi, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, with the first named state having two and the others one.

Offenses charges against the Negroes were: wounding man in altercation, one; attack, one; attempted attack, two; associating with white woman, one, and striking man, one.

Tifton, Ga. Gazette
July 6, 1934

Six lynchings were reported in the United States for the first six months of this year. This is two less than for the same period last year, and one more than in the first half of 1932. Mississippi took the lead with two, while Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Texas reported one each, all negroes.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
July 5, 1934

LYNCHINGS FOR 1934 SHOW SLIGHT DECREASE

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 4.—(AP)—Lynchings for the first six months of 1934 showed a decrease of two over the same period in 1933, with six in the current year against eight last year, an announcement from Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute said today.

All of the victims of lynchers were negroes, the report compiled by the department of records and research said, and all were in southern states.

The lynchings by states were as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississipp, 2; Tennessee, 1, and Texas, 1.

Offenses with which the victims were charged were: Wounding man in altercation 1, attack 1, attempted attack 2, associating with white woman 1, and striking man 1.

For the same period in 1932, the report stated, only five lynchings occurred.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
July 8, 1934

LYNCHING RECORD FOR FIRST HALF OF 1934

Tuskegee, July 7.—According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research, in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is two less than the number for the first six months of 1933; and one more than the number, five, for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Wounding man in altercation, one; rape, one; attempted rape, two; associating with white woman, one; striking man, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, one; Kentucky, one; Mississippi, two; Tennessee, one, and Texas, one.

TARENTUM, PA
NEWS

AUG 30 19[illegible]

Fewer Lynchings

According to Tuskegee Normal Institute there were six lynchings in the United States during the first six months of 1934, two less than during the first six months of 1933 and one more than during the similar period in 1932.

All of the persons lynched were negroes, according to the institute and all occurred in southern states, two in Mississippi and one each in Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

Lynchings are gradually growing less common in the United States and generally are confined to the southern states where the negro population is dense.

The taking of the law into their own hands by a mob is a dangerous practice and as a violation of the law cannot be justified.

Lynchings - 1934
Reports on. Sent Press.

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MILWAUKEE, WIS.
LEADER

AUG 3 1934

LYNCHING STATISTICS

According to figures released by President R. R. Moton of Tuskegee Institute, there were six lynchings in the first six months of 1934, which is two less than the number for the corresponding period of 1933 and one more than for the same six months of 1932. All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: wounding man in altercation, one; rape, one; attempted rape, two; associating with white woman, one; striking man, one. The states represented on the lynching black list are Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas.

PORTSMOUTH, VA.
STAR

JUL 23 1934

LYNCHINGS IN THE SOUTH

~~(Richmond Times~~-Dispatch)

Figures compiled by the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute show that for the first half of this year there have been six lynchings in the United States.

All of the hapless victims were Negroes and all of them was done to death by Southern mobs.

This is a record which should bring a blush of shame to the cheeks of every person who loves the South and wishes it to enjoy the good opinion of the world.

Lynching under any conditions is inexcusable. It is an uncivilized, barbarous method of dealing with offenders against society—granting that all persons who fall under the fury of mobs are guilty.

We have set up courts in this country to try men and women accused of crime. When the function of these tribunals is exercised by mobs, we are in a state bordering on chaos. For the moment our cililization has failed.

The man who commits murder as a member of a mob is invariably a coward. He finds strength in numbers to do his dirty work. Alone, he would shrink from the danger of it.

For its own sake, the South should invoke stern measures for dealing with those who engage in lynchings.

[illegible], S. C. Journal & Review
August 22, 1934

RECORDS SHOW SIX LYNCHING

According to the records compile at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Researc that in the first six months of 193 there were six lynchings. This is less than the number 8 for the firs six months of 1933; and 1 mor than the number 5 for the first si months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched wer Negroes. The offenses charge were: Wounding man in altercatio 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2, associating with white man, 1; striki man, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

Jan. - June

4851

Lynchings - 1934
Reports on, Sent Press.

Franklin, La. St. Mary Banner
July 27, 1934

THE LYNCHING RECORD

According to figures compiled by the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute there were six lynchings of negroes in the South. The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Texas, 1; Tennessee, 1.

The offenses charged against the negroes lynched were: wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1.

The record is two less than for the first six months of 1933, when there were eight lynchings, and one more than in the first six months of 1932, when there were 5 lynchings.

Buford, Ga., Advertiser
July 26, 1934

The first six months have passed with no lynchings in Georgia. We devoutly hope that this record may be carried through the year.

Nashville, Tenn. Tennessean—M'ng
July 11, 1934

The Lynching Record.

Tennessee's people and press, having duly expressed their horror at the blood-letting in Germany, may now give attention to the record of violence in the United States, with particular regard to lynching.

For the first six months of this year, according to the report of President Robert R. Moton of Tuskegee Institute, six persons have been killed by mobs. All of them were negroes. The causes were: Wounding man in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1. This is two less than during the same period in 1933, but one fore than in 1932.

One of the lynchings noted happened in Tennessee, but during the past year there were three in this state, in two of which white men were victims. The lynch total for the United States in 1933 was twenty-eight, so if the present ratio is not exceeded the present year will show improvement.

The long record of lynching in the United States has had neither government aid nor approval, which places it in a different category from that which has been so prevalent in Germany, but at the same time it cannot be said that the forces of law have been notably anxious to assert themselves where mobs have been involved in our sovereign states. And toleration of lynching is only one step removed from encouragement.

Selmer, Tenn., Independent
July 27, 1934

LYNCHING RECORD FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1934

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynching for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1934 there were six lynchings. This is two less than the number eight for the first six months of 1933; and one more than the number five for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: wounding mein altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white women, 1; striking man, 1.

The state in which lynching occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

Yours very truly,
Tuskegee Normal & Industrial Ins.,
Robert R. Morton, President.

Harriman, Tenn. Record
July 19, 1934

LYNCHING RECORD FOR FIRST 6 MONTHS GIVEN

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute, in the department of records and research, in the first six months of 1934, there were six lynchings. This is two less than the number of eight for the first six months of 1933; and one more than the number of five for the first six months of 1932.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offences charged were: wounded in altercation, 1; rape, 1; attempted rape, 2; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1.

The state in which lynching occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

Cochran, Ga., Journal
August 2, 1934

There was no lynching in Georgia for the first half of 1934, according to records kept at Tuskegee Institute. We are proud of this but it may be well to knock on wood. It has been the case in the past that when it looked as if we had gotten over the lynching habit another unfortunate affair would break out. There were only six lynchings in the country at large for the past six months and while this is not the lowest record that has ever been made, it is nevertheless, a good record.—Moultrie Observer

Sanford, N. C., Herald
July 26, 1934

Tuskegee Institute reports six lynchings in the United States during the first six months of 1933, or one more than the number reported for the corresponding period last year. Of those lynched two were white and four were Negroes from the following states: Louisiana and Tennessee two each, Georgia and Texas one each. While this was six lynchings too many, the record shows great improvement since the year 1892, when no less than 255 persons were lynched in the United States, 100 of them being white.

Jan.-Dec.

4841

Lynchings-1934
Reports on, Sent Press.

Salisbury N.C. Post

DEC 28 1934

Lynchings Declined Nearly 50 Per Cent During Past Year

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28. (AP)—Records of Tuskegee institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the nation during 1934—all negroes—to show a decline of 13 under the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released today by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee institute, showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," President Moton's report stated, "and 7 of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. . . . . A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and 3 negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offences charged were: attempted assault 4; assault 2; murder 2; wounding man in altercation 1; writing insulting letter 1; talking disrespectfully 1; insulting women 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it 1.

"The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama 1; Florida 2; Georgia 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi 6; Tenn 1, and Texas 1."

La Crosse Wis., Tribune
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1934

LYNCHINGS SHOW DECLINE FROM '33

Tuskegee, Ala.—(AP)— Records of Tuskegee Institute show there were 15 lynchings in the nation during 1934—all Negroes—to show a decline of 13 under 28 lynchings recorded for 1933. Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee, said eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law

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CARLISLE. KY., MERCURY.
JAN. 3, 1935 J13

Fifteen Persons, All Negroes, Lynched In 1934

R. R. Morton, president of Tuskegee Institute, has issued statistics compiled by the department of records and research of the institution, showing that 15 persons were lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the figure for 1933; 7 more than the number for 1932; 2 more than the number for 1931, and 6 less than the number for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched last year were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 others from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and 3 negro women were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letters, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; Texas, 1

FORT WAYNE IND JOUR GAZETTE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1934

NEGRO LYNCHINGS DECLINE

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28.—(AP)—Records of Tuskegee institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the nation during 1934—all negroes—to show a decline of 13 under 28 lynchings recorded for 19 . The report was released today by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee institute

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CHARLOTTE, N. C. OBSERVER

DEC 29 1934

FIND DECREASE IN LYNCHINGS

Tuskegee Institute Reports 51 Mobs Turned Back by Officers, 15 Lynched.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28.—(AP)—There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings in 1934, when 15 negroes were lynched throughout the nation.

This information was contained today in a report released by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee institute, one of the leading negro institutions of the country.

There were 13 fewer lynchings this year than recorded for 1933.

In the instances where officers prevented the lynchings, the report said "seven were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states."

The report continued:

"In the 46 instances the prisoners were removed or the guards were augmented, or other precautions were taken. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and three negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted assault 4; assault 2; murder 2; wounding man in altercation 1; writing insulting letter 1; talking disrespectfully 1; insulting women 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging 1."

The states where the lynchings occurred and the number in each state: Alabama 1; Florida 2; Georgia 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi 6; Tennessee 1 and Texas 1.

NEW YORK, N. Y. TIMES

JAN 1 - 1935

CRIME AND DISASTER

By ROBERT R. MOTON,
President of Tuskegee Institute.

I SEND you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find, according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, that there were fifteen persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931, and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were fifty-one instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the fifteen persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1, and Texas, 1.

Dec. 12—At the Attorney General's Crime Conference in Washington, Assistant Attorney General Kennan limits the activities of the Department of Justice's agents to the suppression of interstate crimes.

SCRANTON (PA) TIMES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1935

LYNCHING RECORD

Editor Scranton Times: I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were fifteen persons lynched in 1934. This is thirteen less than the number twenty-eight for 1933; seven more than the number eight for 1932; two more than the number thirteen for 1931, and six less than the number twenty-one for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were fifty-one instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and forty-four in southern states. In forty-six of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of seventy-four persons, fourteen white men; fifty-seven negro men and three negro women were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the fifteen persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: ' Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; wounding man in altercation, one; associating with white woman, one; striking man, one; writing insulting letter, one; talking disrespectfully, one; insulting women, one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, one; Florida, two; Georgia, one; Kentucky, one; Louisiana, two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one, and Texas, one.

R. R. MOTON, President.
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

MONROE IS PROUD

Editor Times: Monroe county lifts her head in pride today, and diffuses the smile of victory. She has reared three illustrious sons who honor the great and sovereign state of Pennsylvania.

To the superior court she has given Chester R. Rhodes; to the state senate, Harvey Huffman; and presiding on her county bench remains the favorite, President Judge Samuel E. Shull, in whom were vested all the qualities which constitute a man; the very embodiment of all that is kind, humane, noble and good.

Judge Rhodes, during his long public career has displayed a shrewd predilection for facts; a gentleman and scholar in every sense of the word, whose integrity is unquestionable.

Senator Huffman, through his high regard for his constituents, keen knowledge of legislation, profound interest in human affairs, combined with courage, honesty and conviction, will go down in history as one of the cleanest men ever to occupy a seat in the upper house at Harrisburg.

Judge Shull, scion of a distinguished family of physicians and lawyers, is heralded throughout the state as the beloved jurist from Monroe. His radiant personality, uent oratory, legal precision and vast measure of fairness render him invaluable to his county, state and nation. For nearly a quarter of a century he has wisely wielded the sceptre of judicial authority amid sordid, tragic, pitiful scenes of humanity, tempering all with that kindly tenderness and mercy with which his exemplary life is so richly endowed.

And so, Monroe is proud today to see the three sons, whom she cradled in Democracy, rise to the heights of fame and prominence in Pennsylvania.

EUGENE McMAHON.
Tobyhanna, Pa.

POLICE AND FIREMEN

Editor Times: In February, 1934, Mayor Davis and Director Hanlon fired three firemen and seven or eight policemen because, according to their own statement, these men were not 100 per cent up to the civil service rules and regulations. The dependents of these discharged firemen and policemen were not considered. The civil service rules came first, and these rules were upheld by our courts.

I noticed in Monday's papers the appointment of five new firemen and eight new policemen. I desire, through your paper, to inform you and the taxpayers of the injustice and hypocrisy and the smallness of Mayor Davis. If you will take the time to check up you will find one or two firemen and at least four policemen over the age limit, some of them over forty years of age and some under height and some not physically fit.

How long is the public going to stand for all this hypocrisy and empty promises? Are Mayor Davis and Director Hanlon going to be allowed to get away with these political appointments? As a taxpayer I call on the press and public opinion to right this wrong and I desire to inform his honor the mayor that I am now going to become a good letter writer and inform the public and the press what's going on in our good city of Scranton with our reform mayor. The police and firemen's pension funds after five or ten years will have quite a few more old men not physically fit on pension.

TAXPAYER WHO PAYS.

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curred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2 Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2 Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas 1.

Dawson Ga News

JAN 3 1935

15 WERE LYNCHED IN UNITED STATES IN 1934

MISSISSIPPI LED WITH SIX ONLY ONE IS RECORDED FOR GEORGIA.

The News has received from R. B Mortin, president of Tuskegee Institute, a record of lynchings in the United States in 1934.

According to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 15 persons lynched in 1934 Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law, three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and 3 negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

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taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and three Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

Yours very truly,

Robt. R. Moton,

President Tuskegee Institute

Moultrie Ga Observer

DEC 28 1934

LYNCHING RECORD IN 1934 LOWER THAN IN 1933

The records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 negro men and 3 negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it 1.

The states in which lynchings oc-

CORNING N Y EVE LEADER
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1935

LYNCHINGS

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions

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BLOOMINGTON IND TELEPHONE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1934

Lynchings Are Fewer For 1934

Institute for Young Colored People Gives Out Report.

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Alabama, Dec. 29.—(Spl.)—The Tuskegee Institute for the training of colored young men and women released today the following statistics concerning lynchings for 1934

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number of 13 for 1921; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. 8 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from

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officers of the law outside of jails

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 7 of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or guard augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 negro men and 3 negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchins occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Lou'siana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

BELTON TEX. JOURNAL
JAN. 10, 1935

Fifteen Negroes Lynched in 1934 In United States

Fifteen persons in the United States were lynched in the year 1934, according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

The record is as follows:

This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931, and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western states, and 44 were in Southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and 3 negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, al

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were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting woman, 1; implicating others in charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas. 1.

Gastonia N C Gazette

DEC 29 1934

RECORD OF LYNCHINGS IN SOUTH IN 1934

To The Editor:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

Yours truly,

R. R. MOTON.
Tuskegee, Ala.

Lynchings-1934
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. —Dec.

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BRONX HOME NEWS
DEC 30 1934

15 Lynchings in 1933 Show Marked Decline

Lynchings decreased sharply in 1934 compared with 1933, Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, reported in Tuskegee, Ala., yesterday. Fifteen lynchings, all involving colored persons, were reported this year. The total for 1933 was 28. All occurred in Southern States, Mississippi showing the lead with six. Others were Florida and Louisiana, two each; Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, one each. Fifty-one occasions where law officers prevented lynchings were reported.

Savannah, Ga. Press
December 28, 1934

15 LYNCHINGS OCCURRED IN 1934

DECREASE OF 13 FOR YEAR SHOWN IN TUSKEGEE REPORT

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28—R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, has issued his figures on lynchings in 1934. He finds there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; seven more than the number eight for 1932;' two more than the number 13 for 1931, and six less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails, and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western states, and 44 in Southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented, or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and three negro women were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted assault, 4; assault, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1, and Texas, 1.

HARTFORD, CONN.
COURANT
DEC 30 1934

LYNCHING RECORD

President Moton Reports Fifteen During 1934

To the Editor of The Courant:—

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and six less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and three Negro women were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

R. R. MOTON,
President.

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28, 1934.

Cordele, Ga. Dispatch
December 31, 1934

15 PERSONS REPORTED LYNCHED IN U. S. IN '34

DECLINE OF 13 SHOWN FROM LAST YEAR IN RECORDS OF TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 29—(AP) — Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the nation during 1934—all negroes — to show a decline of 13 under the 23 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released today by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," President Moton's report stated "and 7 of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken — Total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and 3 negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were Attempted assault 4; assault 2; murder 2; wounding man in altercation 1; writing insulting letters 1; talking disrespectfully 1; insulting women 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it 1.

"The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama 1; Florida 2; Georgia 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi 6; Tennessee 1; and Texas 1."

Lynchings Decrease

Citizen
1-3-35

We have seen the number of lynchings in America intermittently rise and fall from year to year so much that we know the figures for any one year cannot be taken as any indication of a general or continued trend. Nevertheless, it is something that a decrease was shown last year.

Statistics show that in 1934 mobs murdered 15 persons, all negroes, as compared with 28 cases of mob violence in 1933. All the lynchin occurred in southern states. There were six in Mississippi, two each in Florida and Louisiana, and one each in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

The report of the Tuskegee Institute says that 51 other attempted lynchings were frustrated.

As regrettable as lynchings are, there has been no steady decrease in their number. They have in the past and probably will in the immediate future depend upon the number of provocations that arise. There are certain crimes that arouse the mob instinct of some persons; further crime of that type, doubtless, will continue to draw out lawless efforts to punish it. The number of lynchings in almost any year will depend upon the number of crimes committed that have a tendency to arouse the mob instinct. Of course, alertness of officers can be depended upon to frustrate a number of them.

Certain tendencies in some types of human nature seem to be stronger than any appeal to reason. Because of that, creation of any really effective public opinion against lynching always will be difficult. Sentiment against lynching now is probably overwhelming; but even public sentiment does not act as a deterrent in the face of heinous crimes.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
January 4, 1935

Tuskegee Institute and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People seem to disagree with each other on the number of lynchings in 1934, and since the disagreement hangs on the question of whether there were two lynchings in Alabama or only one, this state's reputation requires a settlement. Tuskegee reports 15 lynchings of Negroes, of which only one was in Alabama. The N. A. A. C. P. reports 16 lynchings, with two in Alabama. Both organizations agree that there were six in Mississippi, two each in Louisiana and Florida, and one each in Kentucky, Texas, Georgia and Tennessee.

LYNCH MURDERS IN U. S.

Reveille
1-12-35

The fifteen lynchings perpetrated in the United States in 1934, are a disheartening reflection upon the supposedly high status of our boasted democracy and civilization.

The number of mob murders committed in this country last year is less by thirteen than the number of citizens lynched in the previous year, according to Dr. R. R. Moton, Tuskegee Institute president.

This represents a substantial decrease in such killings but of absolutely no credit to the communities in which the crimes were committed.

The fact that all the victims were members of the colored race is as revolting an indictment against the United States as is the circumstance that, except in a single recent paradoxical instance, comparatively nothing has been done, or is going to be done about this cowardly system of bespattering common decency with the blood of defenseless Negroes.

But why are lynchings tolerated in this country anyway?

Why is it that not one penny is being expended by the government of the United States to put a stop to this cowardly system of snuffing out the lives of innocent citizens, while millions of dollars are being expended in far less important fields?

Why are members of our group alone being subjected to this hellish mistreatment at the hands of the most depraved elements with next to nothing being done or said about it by best thinking people of the nation?

Too many members of our group are being shot down and strung up like veritable rats in this country of ours by officially aided and abetted scums of the South.

It must be stopped because it can be stopped.

And it is an inseparable duty of the government of the United States to see that it is stopped if the lives of all citizens are to be protected alike.

WORCESTER, MASS.
TELEGRAM
DEC 30 1934

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

This column is open to all readers for expression of opinion. As an evidence of good faith contributors are expected to sign name and address. When it is so requested the name will not be published.

LYNCHINGS IN 1934

Number Smaller Than in 1933, Tuskegee Head Reports

To the Editor of the Telegram:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; seven more than the number eight for 1932; two more than the number 13 for 1931, and six less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons—14 white men, 57 Negro men and three Negro women were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, four; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, one; associating with white woman, one; striking man, one; writing insulting letter, one; talking disrespectfully, one; insulting women, one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama one, Florida two, Georgia one, Kentucky one, Louisiana two, Mississippi six, Tennessee one and Texas one.

R. R. MOTON,
President, Tuskegee Institute.
Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 26.

Beaufort, N. C., News
January 3, 1935

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

1934 Lynching Record

Editor of The News:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. 8 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 7 of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 14 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offences charged were: attempted rape, 4; 2 rape; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; association with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespect fully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing tur pentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1 Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas 1.

Yours truly,

R. B. MOTON,
Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

Guthrie Okla.
JAN 3 1935

DECREASE IN LYNCHINGS

Statistics released this week reveal that there were 15 persons lynched in the United States in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933, seven more than in 1932, two more than in 1931 and six less than in 1930. Of the number lynched the past year, eight were in the hands of the law. Three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

It is commendable that in 51 instances officers of the law outside of jails.

It is commendable that in 51 instances officers of the law prevented lynchings. In 46 of these instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the other 5 instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women were saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking white man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follow: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1 Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.
JOURNAL & TIMES
DEC 28 1934

15 LYNCHINGS LISTED IN 1934

Tuskegee Report Cites Activity of Officers in Preventing Illegal Executions

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28.—(AP)—Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the nation during 1934—all negroes—to show a decline from the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released today by President R. R. Moton, showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," President Moton's report stated, "seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and 3 negro women, were saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Charges Listed

"Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape 4; rape 2; murder 2; wounding man in altercation 1; writing insulting letter 1; talking disrespectfully 1; insulting women 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it 1.

"The states in which the lynchings occured and the number in each state are as folows: Alabama 1; Florida 2; Georgia 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi 6; Tennessee 1. and Texas 1."

Wrightsville, Ga., Headlight
January 3, 1935

Lynchings Fewer In South In 1935

Georgia was one of eight Southern states in which 15 lynchings were reported to have occurred in 1934, Tuskegee Institute at Tuskegee, Ala., has announced. The number was 13 less than in 1933

The institution, one of the largest and most heavily endowed schools for negroes in the country, said all the persons lynched were negroes and gave the states in which they are alleged to have occurred and the number in each as: Georgia, 1; Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1 and Texas 1.

The lives of 74 other persons, mostly negroes, were saved, the institution added, by removal of prisoners, augmentation of guards, or other precautionary measures.

JAMESTOWN, N. Y.
MORNING POST
DEC 31 1934

YEAR'S LYNCHINGS.

There were fifteen cases of lynching this year according to records compiled by Tuskegee Institute. While the showing reveals the extent to which the function of the law was seized by lawless groups, there are phases of the situation which are cheering. The number of mob actions was materially less than in the preceding year when 28 persons were thus executed.

However, the most encouraging feature is visible in the large number of instances in which movements toward lynchings were thwarted. In 51 cases officers of the law prevented possible lynchings and 44 of these were in Southern states. Since it is in that section that summary executions mostly occur, that so many movements in that direction were turned aside seems to signify growing recognition of the injury which a community suffers from mob action. In the instances prevented a total of 74 persons were involved, fourteen white men, 57 black men and three black women were saved from mob action.

As is usually the case all of those lynched were negroes and the number in each state was: Alabama 1, Florida 2, Georgia 1, Kentucky 1, Louisiana 2, Mississippi 6, Tennessee 1, and Texas 1. While the record is one for

Lynchings-1934
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. - Dec.

4853

NEWS
Durant, Okla
FEB 1 1935

15 Lynched In 1934

According to the records of Tuskegee Institute, 15 persons, all Negroes were lynched in the United States last year, 13 less than in 1933, but nevertheless 15 too many.

In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengance included 14 white men, and three Negro women, the remainder being Negro men.

By states, those lynched were, six in Mississippi, two each in Louisiana and Florida, and one each in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

Offenses charged against the Negroes illegally executed were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; and one each for associating with a white woman; insulting a white woman, striking a white man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrespectfully wounding a white man, and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

Three of those lynched were taken from jails; five were taken from officers of the law while under arrest; the others were apprehended by mobsters before being legally arrested.

In recent years the number of victims of lynch law has been greatly decreased, especially during the last decade, the smallest number being eight, in 1932.

When it is recalled that in 1892 no less than 255 persons were lynched, this frightful total including 100 white men the decrease in the prevalence of this crime may be better realized. During the 50 years in which records have been kept, since 1885, no less than 4,189 persons have been lynched in the United States, of whom 985 were white.

AMERICUS, GA.
TIMES RECORDER
JAN 30 1935

15 LYNCHED IN 1934.

According to the records of Tuskegee Institute, fifteen persons, all negroes, were lynched in the United States last year, 13 less than in 1933, but nevertheless 15 too many.

In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengeance included 14 white men and three negro women, the remainder being negro men.

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Offenses charged against the negroes illegally executed were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; and one each for associating with a white woman; insulting a white woman, striking a white man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrespectfully, wounding a white man and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

Three of those lynched were taken from jails; five were taken from officers of the law while under arrest; the others were apprehended by mobsters before being legally arrested.

In recent years the number of victims of lynch law has been greatly decreased, especially during the last decade, the smallest number being eight, in 1932.

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BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
POST
JAN 29 1935

Checking the Record

Only one lynching was reported by Tuskegee Institute in Alabama in 1934. That consisted of the slaying in Birmingham last August of a Negro who had threatened three girls and then shot at men who attempted to pursue him.

If the Negro was resisting arrest when he was shot by the posse, that was not a lynching. The case ought to be checked and the black mark wiped off Alabama's record.

Many of Alabama's law enforcement officers did their duty carefully and bravely to prevent a lynching last year. No undeserved demerit should be allowed to stand.

NEWS
Palm Beach, Fla
FEB 1 1935

Prevented Lynchings

For some years Tuskegee Institute has kept an accurate record of lynchings in the United States. Knowledge of the facts surounding lynching is considered an important part of any intelligent effort to check this lawless American custom.

The record for 1934 has one particularly encouraging feature, in addition to the fact that there were only 15 lynchings as compared with 28 in 1933. The cheering fact is that so many lynchings were prevented. On 74 different occasions angry mobs gathered for the purpose of lynching somebody. And each time force or strategy on the part of public officials dispersed or held the mob in check until the danger was past. It has been the lack of a determined stand on the part of officers of the law which permitted lynching to become so common.

MIRROR
Mt. Holly N.J.
FEB 6 1935

Fifteen Lynched in 1934

According to the records of Tuskegee Institute, 15 persons, all Negroes were lynched in the United States last year, 13 less than in 1933, but nevertheless 15 too many.

In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengance included 14 white men, and three Negro women, the remainder being Negro men.

By states, those lynched were, six in Mississippi, two each in Louisiana and Florida, and one each in Alabama Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

Offenses charged against the Negroes illegally executed were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; and one each for associating with a white woman; insulting a white woman striking a white man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrespectfully wounding a white man, and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

Three of those lynched were taken from jails; five were taken from officers of the law while under arrest; the others were apprehended by mobsters before being legally arrested.

In recent years the number of victims of lynch law has been greatly decreased, especially during the last decade, the smallest number being eight in 1932.

When it is recalled that in 1892 no less than 255 persons were lynched this frightful total including 100 white men, the decrease in the prevalence of this crime may be better realized. During the 50 years in which records have been kept, since 1885, no less than 4,189 persons have been lynched in the United States, of whom 985 were white.

GAZETTE
So. Boston, Va.
JAN 31 1935

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

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Offenses charged against the Negroes illegally executed were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; and one each for associating with a white woman; insulting a white woman, striking a white man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrespectfully, wounding a white man, and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

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In recent years the number of victims of lynch law has been greatly decreased, especially during the last decade, the smallest number being eight, in 1932.

When it is recalled that in 1892 no less than 255 persons were lynched, this frightful total including 100 white men, the decrease in the prevalence of this crime may be better realized. During the 50 years, in which records have been kept, since 1885, no less than 4,189 persons have been lynched in the United States, of whom 985 were white.

TRIBUNE
Lowell, Ind.
JAN 31 1935

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

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In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengeance included 14 white men, and three Negro women, the remainder being Negro men.

By states, those lynched were, six in Mississippi, two each in Louisiana and Florida, and one each in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

Offenses charged against the Negroes illegally executed were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; and one each for associating with a white woman; insulting a white woman, striking a white man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrespectfully, wounding a white man, and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

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In recent years the number of victims of lynch law has been greatly decreased, especially during the last decade, the smallest number being eight, in 1932.

When it is recalled that in 1892 no less than 225 persons were lynched, this frightful total including 100 white men, the decrease in the prevalence of this crime may be better realized. During the 50 years in which records have been kept, since 1885, no less than 4,189 persons have been lynched in the United States, of whom 985 were white.

KINGSTON, N. Y.
LEADER

FEB 12 1935

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

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In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengeance included 14 white men, and three Negro women, the remainder being Negro men.

By states, those lynched were, six in Mississippi, two each in Louisiana and Florida, and one each in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

Offenses charged against the Negroes illegally executed were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; and one each for associating with a white woman; insulting a white woman, striking a white man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrespectfully, wounding a white man, and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

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In recent years the number of victims of lynch law has been greatly decreased, especially during the last decade, the smallest number being eight, in 1932.

When it is recalled that in 1892 no less than 255 persons were lynched, this frightful total including 100 white men, the decrease in the prevalence of this crime may be better realized. During the 50 years in which records have been kept, since 1885, no less than 4,189 persons have been lynched in the United States, of whom 985 were white.

HERALD
Sauk Centre - Minn.
FEB 7 1935

15 Lynched In 1934

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In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengeance included 14 white men, and three Negro women, the remainder being Negro men.

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Offenses charged against the Negroes illegally executed were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; and one each for associating with white women; insulting a white woman, striking a white man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrespectfully, wounding a white man, and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

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LEADER
Wellington, Tex.
JAN 31 1935

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

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Lynchings-1934
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. -Dec.

4854

4854

Nashville, Tenn. Tennessean—M'ng
December 29, 1934

The Lynching Record.

This will be remembered as a season of lynching and violence in Middle Tennessee, but it is pleasing to note from the annual report of Dr. R. R. Moton of Tuskegee Institute, that there was a decline of nearly 100 per cent in the total number of lynchings for the year.

Twenty-eight persons met their deaths at the hands of mobs in 1933, but there were only fifteen victims in 1934, all occurring in Southern states. Tennessee is credited with one lynching, presumably that of the Maury County negro who was abducted shortly after his release from the Davidson County jail after having been exonerated by the grand jury.

This is the ugly side of Dr. Moton's report, but it has its brighter aspect in the announcement that there were fifty-one instances where officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven times this was done in Northern and Western states and forty-four times in the South.

There need be no surprise that all of the fifteen mob victims of the year were negroes, and that only six of them were charged with rape or attempted criminal attack. The other offenses which brought violence were murder, talking disrespectfully, writing insulting letters, and implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging.

Mississippi had the most lynchings, with six; Florida and Louisiana had two apiece, and Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas are credited with but one.

Every reduction of the lynching death list is something to be grateful for, and it is to be hoped that another year will bring still greater respect for the law in the South where all the acts of violence were concentrated this year.

CAMDEN, N. J.
COURIER

JAN 2 1935

LYNCHING IN 1934

The annual report on lynching made by Tuskegee Institute throws important light on this gruesome subject.

Fifteen persons—all Negroes—were lynched in the United States during 1934. But 51 persons were saved from lynch mobs by officers.

This indicates how the lynching problem will eventually be overcome—by more courageous resistance like that of the militia at Shelbyville, Tenn., and less of the disgusting complacence that marked the official attitude toward the "invitation" lynching at Marianna, Fla.

Better even than bullets is the knowledge that officials are prepared to shoot would-be lynchers if necessary. Recently, a Negro was arrested in Frederick, Md., for attack on a little white girl.

He was sent to Baltimore for safe-keeping and returned to face trial only after the court had made clear its intention of protecting him from violence at any cost.

Within six weeks from the date of the crime the man has been convicted and sentenced. More of this firmness from authorities may some day make the sad New Year's reminder from Tuskegee unnecessary.

FARIBAULT, MINN.
NEWS

JAN 2 1935

Mississippi Leads

The Tuskegee Institute for many years has kept record, through their research department, of the lynchings in the United States. They show that lynching has decreased since 1930. The years of 1931 and 1932 showed the smallest number of lynchings, while in 1933 the number more than doubled. 1934 shows a decline. The average over the four years is 21.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings in 1934. 7 of these were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 negro men and 3 negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched in 1934 all were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

Brunswick, Ga. News
January 5, 1935

LYNCHING ON THE DECLINE

From statistics compiled by officials of Tuskegee Institute, the number of lynchings in the United States for 1934 was 15 against 28 in 1933, a decline of 13.

Of the fifteen persons lynched all were negroes alleged to be guilty of the following crimes:

Attempted assault, 4; assault, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

The report shows that there were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, seven of these occurring in northern and western states. The report is thorough and illuminating, giving in detail the history of the cases, those that were prevented as well as those that were lynched.

Georgia had only one lynching during the year which is an indication of the growth of anti-lynching feeling in this state. The people of the south are not of the barbarous turn of temperament, but only in isolated cases do lynchings occur. The principal crime for which lynching is resorted to is that of rape, but in most instances, the law has been allowed to take its course. However, under such trying conditions, the brutality of the criminal is of such character, it arouses the indignation of a red blooded people to an enraged temperament that becomes uncontrollable and only the life of the brute can satisfy an outraged people, whether they reside in the southern states or in states where racial equality is more seriously considered. So long as the crime of rape is committed, it may be expected that there will occur lynchings, but with the vanishing of such crimes, lynchings will not be resorted to, but the law will be allowed to take its course and the defendant given every legal opportunity to prove his innocence.—Athens Banner-Herald.

Clinton, Tenn. News
January 4, 1935

1934 LYNCHINGS

Fifteen persons were lynched in the United States in the year just ended. This was 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 negro men and 3 negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1

CHARLESTON, W. VA.
GAZETTE

DEC 30 1934

Lynching Declines

The year 1934 was better in many respects than some of its predecessors. The country as a whole should be particularly boastful of the fact that there were only 15 persons lynched during the year, 13 less than in 1933. Eight of those lynched were in the hands of the law, three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

Those lynched incurred the displeasure of the mob because of crimes ranging from "talking disrespectfully" to murder. One's life was taken because he implicated others in a case of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, according to the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute.

Other causes of lynching included wounding a man in an altercation, associating with a white woman, striking a man, insulting a woman, murder, criminal assault and attempted criminal assault. All those lynched were Negroes.

West Virginia can boast that there were no lynchings in this state. Six lives were summarily taken in Mississippi, two each in Florida and Louisiana and one each in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

There is one bright spot in this shameless method of dealing justice to accused persons. There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 instances, the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the other five instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons—14 white men, 57 Negro men and three Negro women—were thus saved from death at the hands of the mobs.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y.
EAGLE NEWS

JAN 2 1935

THE LYNCHING RECORD

Lynchings received a good deal of attention in the news last year, and the average person probably arrived at the conclusion that they were more numerous than usual. The annual report on the subject from the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial school, which long has kept standard statistics, shows that the number of lynchings for 1934 was actually only 15, or 13 fewer than in 1933, and six fewer than in 1931. Unfortunately the records of 1931 and 1932, when the totals were 13 and eight, respectively, were not equalled, but the fact that a sharp decrease has occurred from the high peak of 1933 is distinctly encouraging, since it indicates that the pendulum is swinging again in the right direction.

Encouraging, too, are the statistics dealing with the number of lynchings that were prevented by courageous officers of the law. Seven of these incidents occurred in the northern and western states, and 44 in the South, and a total of 74 persons were saved from mob vengeance.

These figures should give the South cause for gratification and should remind its critics in the North that the states below the Mason and Dixon line are not so backward or barbarous as some of their critics are wont to assume. The recent action of officers in Shelbyville, Tenn., in saving an accused Negro from a mob whose passions were raised to such a high pitch that it burned the court house shows how resolute the forces of law and order in the South can be. . . . .

The record of lynching will never be satisfactory until lynchings end, but the progress made last year is highly gratifying.

The Christian
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Atlanta Ga
Jan 3, 1935

VICTIMS OF LYNCH LAW IN 1934

PRESIDENT Robert R. Morton, of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama, released December 28 some interesting data concerning lynchings for the year 1934. President Morton finds, according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskeege Institute, that there were fifteen persons lynched in 1934. He says:

"This is thirteen less than the number, twenty-eight, for 1933; seven more than the number, eight, for 1932; two more than the number, thirteen, for 1931; and six less than the number, twenty-one, for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

"There were fifty-one instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western States and forty-four in Southern States. In forty-six of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of seventy-four persons, fourteen white men, fifty-seven negro men and three Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the fifteen persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; wounding man in altercation, one; associating

Lynchings - 1934
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. - Dec.

4855

The Lynching Record For Last Year

There were 15 lynchings in the United States in 1934, according to the records compiled by Tuskegee Institute. All of the victims were Negroes, and all of the lynchings took place in the South. The states in which the lynchings took place and the number in each are as follows: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, 1 each; Florida and Louisiana, 2 each, and Mississippi, 6.

The total for last year represents a sharp decline from that of 1933, when there were 28 lynchings, not all of which were in the South. The record for 1933 was the worst in several years. Before that time lynchings had been on the decline steadily, from 21 in 1930 to 13 in 1931 and only 8 in 1932.

There were many attempts at lynching last year which were prevented. The Tuskegee Institute report credits officers of the law with preventing lynchings in 51 instances. Of these, 44 were in the South and 7 in other parts of the country. That is a commendable showing on the part of the law-enforcement agencies, and would seem to indicate a growing realization on the part of officers of their duty to safeguard prisoners from mobs and an increasing resistance to the mob spirit.

The decrease in lynchings in 1934 from the exceptionally high total of the year before, it is hoped, means that the downward trend which had been in progress for some years before 1933 has been resumed and will continue. When the total fell to 8 in 1932, there was hope that within a few years this form of mob violence would disappear altogether. Now that 1934 has shown a reduction from the total in 1933, that hope may be revived. If the year now beginning shows a further decline, we may again believe that the practice of lynching is on its way out in the United States.

Dalton, Ga., N. Ga. Citizen
January 3, 1935

Nothing to Boast About

President R. R. Moton, of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, sends The Citizen details and figures concerning the lynching record of the country during the year 1934. It does not speak so well for the south, for the simple reason that all the lynchings occurred in this section.

We are improving slowly, but when we show improvement for one year, we are liable to slip back the next. Georgia, however, has only one lynching for the year 1934, but that is one too many. Mississippi comes forward with six, and that is six too many. In a state where there is civilization and law enforcement, there is no sensible excuse for lynching. Lynching is nothing more than mob-madness, and mob-madness is anarchy.

We quote Dr. Moton's lynching release as of December 28, 1934:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that thert were fifteen persons lynched in 1934. This is thirteen less than the number twenty-eight for 1933; seven more than the number eight for 1932; two more than the number thirteen for 1931; and six less than the number twenty-one for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were fifty-one instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and forty-four in southern states. In forty-six of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of seventy-four persons, fourteen white men; fifty-seven Negro men and three Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the fifteen persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; wounding man in altercation, one; associating with white woman, one; striking man, one; writing insulting letter, one; talking disrespectfully, one; insulting women, one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, one; Florida, two; Georgia, one; Kentucky, one; Louisiana, two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one; and Texas, one.

York, S. C. Enquirer
January 1, 1935

THE LYNCHINGS OF LAST YEAR

Mississippi Had 40 Per Cent of Them and All Were In South.

According to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern states. In 46 of the instances, the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented, or other precautions taken In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men, and three negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white women, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas 1.

Monroeville, Ala., Journal
January 3, 1935

LYNCHINGS IN 1934 SHOW SHARP DROP

Records of Tuskegee Institute show there were 15 lynchings in the Nation during 1934—all negroes—to show a decline of 13 under the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law, three were taken from jails, and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," President Moton's report stated, "and seven of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. . . . A total of 74 persons, 14 white men 57 negro men and three negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

"The States in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee. 1: and Texas. 1."

Chester, S. C., Reporter
December 31, 1934

NO LYNCHINGS IN S. CAROLINA IN 1934

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., Dec. 22.—According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and 3 negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white women, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee. 1: and Texas. 1

Atlanta, Ga., Statesman
January 1, 1935

15 Persons Reported Lynched in U. S. in '34

Tuskegee, Ala.—Records of Tuskegee Institute at the close of the year showed there were 15 lynchings in the nation during 1934—all negroes—to show a decline of 13 under the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," President Moton's report stated, "and 7 of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. Total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and 3 negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1."

[illegible], Ga., News
January 3, 1935

DECREASE SHOWN IN LYNCHINGS IN U. S. IN YEAR 1934

13 LESS THAN IN 1933, BUT SEVEN MORE THAN IN 1932

According to records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala., there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. 8 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 7 of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 negro men and 3 negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Texas, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1.

Mississippi Leads Mob Violations

According to Records Compiled by the

TUSK. RESEARCH DEPT

Which Says 15 Persons Met Mob Deaths

Tribune

Tuskegee, Inst., Ala., Dec. 22—According to the records compiled in The Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute it was found that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28, for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white women, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting woman, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
January 2, 1935

Decline in Lynchings

THERE was a slight decline in lynchings in 1934, as compared to 1933. In the year which just ended, 15 persons were done to death by mobs, the lynchings being distributed as follows: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, one each; Florida and Louisiana, 2 each; Mississippi 6. In 1933 there were 28 lynchings.

Even more encouraging than the decline in the number of lynchings in 1934 was the fact that in 51 instances officers of the law prevented lynchings. Had not there been this show of resistance to mob law on the part of officers, the 1934 totals might have gone much higher.

One display of courage such as Gov. McAlister showed in the Shelbyville crisis will do much to educate the public to the fact that lynchings must cease.

Charlotte, N. C., News
January 1, 1935

1934's Bloody Record.

There were, according to Tuskegee Institute's tabulation, 15 lynchings in 1934. That is a gain over the 28 that took place in 1933, from which improvement there doubtless is to be extracted a crumb of comfort.

But taken one by one the 15 lynching bees are a gruesome enough resume for any twelvemonth. There was the Texas Negro accused of associating with a white woman herself disreputable, who was first hanged, then shot 17 times, then his body dragged behind an automobile for several hours to complete the mob's desire for sport.

There was the Negro farm hand who went to an ice cream supper in Manchester, Tennessee. A group of low whites intruded with the purpose of breaking up the festival, and when one of them began to curse the farm hand he picked up a club and used it effectively. Later his body was found, naked, shot four times, his head beaten in with an axe.

There was the Louisiana Negro, suspected of criminal assault, who was taken from jail, stabbed, beaten, and hanged inexpertly by the neck until he was dead.

But enough of such grisly samples. All lynchings are more or less alike in their performance. In 1934, however, there were variations in motives for lynchings which deserve to be chronicled.

When Cole Blease, then senator, exclaimed "to hell with the constitution" if the purity of Southern womanhood was jeopardized, he failed to consider that lynching might deteriorate into a less gallant pastime. At least seven of 1934's lynchings came as a result of circumstances not remotely involving white women. Three were for fighting with white men, and in one, the case described above, white men went out of their way to start the fight. One was for implicating white men in an illegal transaction. One, perhaps the most unusual of all was the lynching by Negroes of a Negro alleged to have raped a girl of his own race.

No account of the year's lynchings would be complete, however, without mention of the state of Tennessee's repulsion of the mob at Shelbyville. That, it is to be hoped, marks the beginning of the end of this peculiarly Southern custom of lynching.

Wilson, N. C., Times
December 31, 1934

SURVEY SHOWS 15 NEGROES WERE LYNCHED DURING YEAR

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 29.—(AP)—There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings in 1934, when 15 negroes were lynched throughout the nation.

This information was contained yesterday in a report released by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee institute, one of the leading negro institutions in the country.

There were 13 fewer lynchings this year than recorded in 1933.

In the instances where officers prevented the lynchings, the report said "seven were in northern and western state and 44 in southern states."

Dadeville, Ala., Record
January 3, 1935

ONLY 15 LYNCHINGS IN UNITED STATES IN 1934

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28.—Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed that there were fifteen lynchings in the nation during 1934, all negroes. This was 13 less than the number last year, which had a record of 28.

The report showed that eight of those lynched were in the hands of the law, three being taken from jails and five from officers outside of jails. Officers of the law prevented lynchings in fifty-one instances, the report showed.

Lynchings by states were: Alabama 1; Florida 2; Georgia 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi 6; Tennessee 1; Texas 1.

Lynchings- 1934
Reports on, Sent Press.

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PITTSBURG, KANS.
SUN

DEC 29 1934

Better Lynching Record.

Unless there is a mob outbreak between now and next Monday night, 1934 has written a lynching record that is encouraging. The encouragement lies not in the fact that fifteen persons were killed by mob action but that the number is thirteen under the 1933 record which contained 28 lynchings.

There is more encouragement in the 1934 record. There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states while 44 were in southern states. This shows that there was not only an appreciation of their responsibilities by officers but that when the test came the officers were ready to meet their responsibility and did meet it in a most commendable way. It also is proof of the contention that officers with courage and intelligence can defeat the ordinary mob is they use that courage and intelligence. A weak officer to say nothing of his intelligence, can be defeated by a senseless mob. But a strong officer, with fair intelligence, has a tremendous advantage over an assemblage of men bent on the purposes for which mobs usually form.

All of the 1934 lynchings were in southern states, and one border state, Kentucky. All of the victims were Negroes. Lynching remains a problem for the South.

NASHVILLE, TENN.
EVE. TENNESSEAN

DEC 29 1934

The Lynching Record.

This will be remembered as a season of lynching and violence in Middle Tennessee, but it is pleasing to note from the annual report of Dr. R. R. Moton of Tuskegee Institute, that there was a decline of nearly 100 per cent in the total number of lynchings for the year.

Twenty-eight persons met their deaths at the hands of mobs in 1933, but there were only fifteen victims in 1934, all occurring in Southern states. Tennessee is credited with one lynching, presumably that of the Maury County negro who was abducted shortly after his release from the Davidson County jail after having been exonerated by the grand jury.

This is the ugly side of Dr. Moton's report, but it has its brighter aspect in the announcement that there were fifty-one instances where officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven times this was done in Northern and Western states and forty-four times in the South.

There need be no surprise that all of the fifteen mob victims of the year were negroes, and that only six of them were charged with rape or attempted criminal attack. The other offenses which brought violence were murder, talking disrespectfully, writing insulting letters, and implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging.

Mississippi had the most lynchings, with six; Florida and Louisiana had two apiece, and Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas are credited with but one.

Every reduction of the lynching death list is something to be grateful for, and it is to be hoped that another year will bring still greater respect for the law in the South where all the acts of violence were concentrated this year.

EL DORADO, KANS.
TIMES

DEC 29 1934

THWARTING JUDGE LYNCH

The lynching record for 1934 is an improvement. Fifteen persons—all negroes—fell victims to mobs during the year in contrast with 28 for 1933. The number, however is almost twice as many as in 1932, when only eight lynchings occurred.

The brightest spot in the report, which is furnished by the Tuskegee Institute, is that 51 instances occurred in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances, the prisoners were removed, the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In five other cases, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and three negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

It is interesting to note the charges against the 15 lynch victims. Two were for rape and four for attempted rape. Another two were for murder, while there were single instances of wounding man in altercation, associating with white women, striking man, writing insulting letter, talking disrespectfully, insulting women, implicating others in charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it.

The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number were: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; Texas, 1.

The law of Judge Lynch continues to be a problem, but so long as officers stand up and thwart mobs as effectively as they have done this year, hope is aroused that this type of national disgrace may be wiped out some day.

PROVIDENCE, R. I.
NEWS TRIBUNE

DEC 29 1934

1934 LYNCHINGS

Dr. R. R. Moton, head of the Tuskegee Institute, who sends us dependable periodical reports of lynching figures, has just made his compilation for 1934. The record is far from being the worst for several years, but it is still very disgraceful. No less than 15 persons have been lynched this year, as against 28 last year, but 1933 was particularly bad. In 1932, for example, only eight lynchings were recorded. In 1931, there were 13; in 1930, there were 21. Of those lynched this year, eight were in the hands of the law when the mobs took control of them, three being taken from jails and five from law officers outside of jails.

It is more agreeable to note that there were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Of these seven were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. A total of 74 persons were saved from the mobs in these cases. Of them 14 were white men, 57 Negro men and four Negro women. All of the 15 persons actually lynched were Negroes.

There is no change of note recorded in the character of the crimes of which those lynched were accused, but of which they were given no opportunity to prove themselves innocent. Four were cases of attempted rape, and two of rape. Two were murder cases, and one a case of associating with a white woman. One or two curious cases are included, one man being lynched for talking disrespectfully, and another on a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it. As has sometimes occurred before, Mississippi with no less than six lynchings chalked up against it was the chief offender among the States.

Glancing backward over this record, the only satisfaction is in the comparatively high number of lynchings prevented. The Shelbyville case is still uppermost in the average mind. There is, we believe, no doubt that the determination to vindicate the law against the mob is growing in the Southern States, and that a few more years of education and enlightened effort by leading Southerners will see this terrible crime very near to the point of complete disappearance even if some setbacks have to be endured, due, partly, to the restless conditions for which the depression has been responsible.

Mississippi Holds Lead In Mob Rule In United States

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Jan. 4.—From the office of the department of records and research at Tuskegee Institute, known lynchings for the year 1934 were lower than during the previous year. While the records show 15 were killed by mobs in the past year and 28 in 1933, yet it is not presumed tha these figures are accurate.

Investigations clearly reveal that numerous cases chalked up as "missing persons" and "justifiable shooting" rightly belong in the lynch column.

Eight Taken From Law

The 15 lynchings in 1934 are 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931, and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Members of the Race

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were members of the Race. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

Savannah, Ga., News
December 29, 1934

THE ANNUAL LYNCHING RECORD

Although there were fifteen lynchings in 1934, compared with twenty-eight the previous year, according to figures announced by R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, the record is not one to be proud of. It had been hoped that Georgia might come through the year with no lynchings chalked up against it. Georgia kept its escutcheon untarnished during the first six months, but one dark blot was cast upon the tablet when autumn arrived. Other states in which a single lynching occurred were Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas. Mississippi topped the list with six, while Florida and Louisiana each had two.

To the credit of efforts toward law enforcement in the South is the announcement that of the fifty-one instances in which officers prevented lynchings forty-four were in Southern states and seven in Northern and Western states. The supreme achievement along this line occurred recently at Shelbyville, Tenn., where state militiamen dispersed a frenzied mob bent upon lynching a negro who was being tried in a court of justice. The court house was burned by the mob, but the prisoner was safely transferred to Nashville

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The Lynching Record For Last Year

There were 15 lynchings in the United States in 1934, according to the records compiled by Tuskegee Institute. All of the victims were Negroes, and all of the lynchings took place in the South. The states in which the lynchings took place and the number in each are as follows: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, 1 each; Florida and Louisiana, 2 each, and Mississippi, 6.

The total for last year represents a sharp decline from that of 1933, when there were 28 lynchings, not all of which were in the South. The record for 1933 was the worst in several years. Before that time lynchings had been on the decline steadily, from 21 in 1930 to 13 in 1931 and only 8 in 1932.

There were many attempts at lynching last year which were prevented. The Tuskegee Institute report credits officers of the law with preventing lynchings in 51 instances. Of these, 44 were in the South and 7 in other parts of the country. That is a commendable showing on the part of the law-enforcement agencies, and would seem to indicate a growing realization on the part of officers of their duty to safeguard prisoners from mobs and an increasing resistance to the mob spirit.

The decrease in lynchings in 1934 from the exceptionally high total of the year before, it is hoped, means that the downward trend which had been in progress for some years before 1933 has been resumed and will continue. When the total fell to 8 in 1932, there was hope that within a few years this form of mob violence would disappear altogether. Now that 1934 has shown a reduction from the total in 1933, that hope may be revived. If the year now beginning shows a further decline, we may again believe that the practice of lynching is on its way out in the United States.

Birmingham, Ala., News
January 1, 1935

The Lynching Record For Last Year

There were 15 lynchings in the United States in 1934, according to the records compiled by Tuskegee Institute. All of the victims were Negroes, and all of the lynchings took place in the South. The states in which the lynchings took place and the number in each are as follows: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, 1 each; Florida and Louisiana, 2 each, and Mississippi, 6.

The total for last year represents a sharp decline from that of 1933, when there were 28 lynchings, not all of which were in the South. The record for 1933 was the worst in several years. Before that time lynchings had been on the decline steadily, from 21 in 1930 to 13 in 1931 and only 8 in 1932.

There were many attempts at lynching last year which were prevented. The Tuskegee Institute report credits officers of the law with preventing lynchings in 51 instances. Of these, 44 were in the South and 7 in other parts of the country. That is a commendable showing on the part of the law-enforcement agencies, and would seem to indicate a growing realization on the part of officers of their duty to safeguard prisoners from mobs and an increasing resistance to the mob spirit.

The decrease in lynchings in 1934 from the exceptionally high total of the year before, it is hoped, means that the downward trend which had been in progress for some years before 1933 has been resumed and will continue. When the total fell to 8 in 1932, there was hope that within a few years this form of mob violence would disappear altogether. Now that 1934 has shown a reduction from the total in 1933, that hope may be revived. If the year now beginning shows a further decline, we may again believe that the practice of lynching is on its way out in the United States.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
BULLETIN

DEC 31 1934

THE LYNCHING RECORD

Tuskegee's annual tabulation of lynchings shows 15 this year, compared with 28 in 1933. While little inference is warranted in year-to-year variations, the number of lynchings sharply decreased after 1922 and the worst year since is considerably under the record of most of the years of the decade 1913-22. The decrease is still more marked if compared to the period 1895-1901, in which lynchings fell below a hundred in only one year, and in several approached or exceeded 200.

But if 1934 showed a decrease in the number of lynchings, it has on its record one of the worst in recent years, one in which a mob stormed an Alabama jail, carried the victim to Florida and lynched him under circumstances of exceptional barbarity. An entirely different story goes to the credit of Tennessee, where Governor McAllister this month ordered out a contingent of National Guardsmen to protect a prisoner from a mob, whose attempt to storm the jail cost the lives of two of its members when the State troops fired on the crowd.

In his address to the National Crime Conference early this month President Roosevelt referred to "horrifying lynchings" as one of the forms of crime that arouse popular resentment and anger. He is now asked to put the anti-lynching law on his "must" schedule.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
AGE HERALD

DEC 29 1934

TUSKEGEE GIVES LYNCHING DATA

15 Negroes Victims In 1934, Records At Institute Show

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28—Fifteen Negroes were lynched during 1934, in contrast to 28 persons lynched during 1933, according to a report by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of the Tuskegee Institute, from records compiled in the Department of Records and Research, Tuskegee Institute.

The report showed 51 instances in which officers of the law were credited with preventing lynchings, of this number seven in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern states.

The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each were listed as follows:

Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, one each; Florida and Louisiana, two each, and Mississippi, six.

Offenses listed were attempted attack, four; attack, two; murder, two, and wounding a man in an altercation, associating with a white woman, striking a man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrespectfully, insulting women and implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, one each.

In the 51 instances of prevented lynchings reported, the records numbered 74 persons saved. The manner in which the lynchings were prevented were shown as follows:

Prisoners removed, guards augmented or other precautions taken, 46.

The report showed 21 persons lynched in 1930, 13 in 1931 and 8 in 1932.

Lynchings - 1934
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. - Dec.

4858

Durham, N. C. Herald
December 29, 1934

15 Negroes Lynched In Year, Says Moton

Tuskegee Head Reports 51 Instances In Which Officers Prevented Successful Mob Action

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28.—(AP)—There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings in 1934, when 15 Negroes were lynched throughout the nation.

This information was contained today in a report released by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee institute, one of the leading Negro institutions in the country.

There were 13 fewer lynchings this year than recorded in 1933.

In the instances where officers prevented the lynchings, the report said "seven were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states."

The report continued:

"In the 46 instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 Negro men and three Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted assault 4; assault 2; murder 2; wounding man in altercation 1; writing insulting letter 1; talking disrespectfully 1; insulting women 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging 1."

The states where the lynchings occurred and the number in each state: Alabama 1; Florida 2; Georgia 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi 6; Tennessee 1 and Texas 1.

Brunswick, Ga. News
December 30, 1934

Only fifteen lynchings occurred in the United States during the past twelve months which is a big improvement over the number during 1933.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
December 29, 1934

Lynchings In 1934 Show Sharp Drop

TUSKEGEE, ALA., Dec. 28.—(AP)—records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the Nation during 1934—all negroes—to show a decline of 13 under the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released today by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law, three were taken from jails, and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," President Moton's report stated, "and seven of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. . . . A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and three negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

"The States in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1."

1934 LYNCHINGS

To the Editor:

Sir:—I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. 8 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

12-31-34

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 7 of these were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

R. R. MOTON, President.
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

Lynchings In 1934 Show Sharp Drop

TUSKEGEE, ALA., Dec. 28.—(AP)—records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the Nation during 1934—all negroes—to show a decline of 13 under the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released today by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law, three were taken from jails, and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," President Moton's report stated, "and seven of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken . . . . A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and three negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2 wounding man in altercation, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

"The States in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1."

Advertiser
12-29-34
Montgomery
Ala.

Morristown, Tenn., Gazette
December 28, 1934

Fifteen Lynchings In Nation During .34

(By Associated Press)

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28—Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were fifteen lynchings in the nation during 1934—all Negros—to show a decline of thirteen under 28 recorded for 1933.

The report said eight of those lynched were in the hands of the law. Three were taken from jails and five from officers outside of jails. There were fifty-one in nces which officers pr ynchings.

Knoxville, Tenn., News-Sentinel
December 29, 1934

LYNCHINGS TAKE SHARP DECLINE

Only 15 During Year, Drop of 13 m 1933.

By Associated Press

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 29—Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the nation during 1934—all Negroes—a decline of 13 under the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," the report stated.

Mississippi led in lynchings with six. There was one in Tennessee.

Tampa, Fla., Times
December 31, 1934

Southern States Alone In Lynchings In 1934

States of the South retained the unenviable record for lynchings during 1934, according to figures compiled by Tuskegee Institute and released by Dr. R. R. Moton, its president.

Fifteen lynchings occurred during the year, all of them in eight Southern States. The Tuskegee Institute figures distribute them thus: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; Texas, 1.

According to these figures, Mississippi was responsible for two-fifths of the total number of lynchings for the whole United States for 1934.

On the other side of the record, it is shown that law officers in Southern States prevented forty-four lynchings during the year, with such disgraces prevented in seven instances in Northern and Western States. The number of persons saved from lynching was seventy-four, of whom fourteen were white men, fifty-seven negro men, and three negro women. Most of the persons either lynched or saved from such a death by the efforts of law officers, were charged with offenses involving white women, and all of those lynched were negroes.

The total for 1934—fifteen—was thirteen fewer than 1933's twenty-eight, but greater than the totals of 1932 or 1931. And, viewed from any angle, it is a record to which few will point with pride.

Moultrie, Ga., Observer
December 28, 1934

LYNCHING RECORD IN 1934 LOWER THAN IN 1933

The records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 negro men and 3 negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas 1.

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
December 29, 1934

THIS YEAR SAW 15 LYNCHINGS

All of Victims Were Negroes; Less Than in 1933.

Fifteen persons, all Negroes, were lynched in the United States in 1934, according to records compiled by Tuskegee Normal and Industrial institution for Negroes and released yesterday.

The lynchings occurred in the following eight Southern states, according to the Tuskegee report:

Tennessee, one; Alabama, one; Kentucky one; Georgia, one; Louisiana, two; Florida, two; Texas, one, and Mississippi, six.

LESS THAN 1933

The lynchings in 1934 were 13 less than in 1933, seven more than in 1932, two more than in 1931, and six less than in 1930, the report stated, continuing in part:

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in Southern states.

"In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers.

74 ARE SAVED

"A total of 74 persons—14 white men, 57 Negro men and three Negro women—were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs."

The report lists the following reasons for the 15 lynchings in 1934:

Attempted statutory offense, four; statutory offense, two; murder, two; wounding man in altercation, one; associating with white woman, one; striking man, one; writing insulting letter, one; talking disrespectfully, one; insulting woman, one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging, one.

Huntsville, Ala., Times
December 28, 1934

1934 LYNCHINGS SHOW DECLINE

Number Drops From 28 In 1933 To Only 15 This Year

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28 (AP)—Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the nation during 1934—all negroes—to show a decline of 13 under the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released today by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails, and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," President Moton's report stated, "and 7 of these were in Northern and Western states, and 44 in Southern states. In 46 of the instances, the prisoners were removed, or the guards augmented, or other precautions taken. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and 3 negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape 4; rape 2; murder 2; wounding man in altercation 1; writing insulting letter 1; talking disrespectfully 1; insulting women 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

"The states in which the lynchings occurred, and the number in each state, are as follows: Alabama 1; Florida 2; Georgia 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi 6; Tennessee 1; and Texas 1."

BROOKLYN, N. Y.
TIMES UNION
DEC 30 1934

LYNCHINGS DECREASE

15 Colored Persons Victims of Violence in 1934.

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 29.—Lynchings decreased sharply in 1934, compared with 1933, Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, reported today.

Fifteen lynchings, all colored persons, were reported this year. The lynch total for 1933 was 28.

All occurred in Southern States, Mississippi showing the lead with six. Other were: Florida and Louisiana, two each; Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Texas, one each.

Fifty-one occasions where law officers prevented lynchings were reported, seven instances in Northern and Western States and 44 in the South. Alertness of the law saved 74 persons from lynch death, the report continued.

LYNCHINGS DECREASE

Total Of 15 For Country Listed At Tuskegee Institute

News

12-29-34

Birmingham Ala.

TUSKEGEE, Ala. —(AP)— Records of Tuskegee Institute Friday showed there were 15 lynchings in the nation during 1934—all Negroes—to show a decline of 13 under the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law, three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," President Moton's report stated, "and seven of these were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. . . . A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 Negro men and three Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape 4; rape 2; murder 2; wounding man in altercation 1; writing insulting letter 1; talking disrespectfully 1; insulting women 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

"The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama 1; Florida 2; Georgia 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi 6; Tennessee 1, and Texas 1."

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15 PERSONS REPORTED LYNCHED IN U. S. IN '34

Constitution

Decline of 13 Shown From Last Year in Records of Tuskegee Institute.

12-29-34

Atlanta Ga.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28—(AP)—Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the nation during 1934—all negroes—to show a decline of 13 under the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released today by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," President Moton's report stated, "and 7 of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. . . . Total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and 3 negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted assault 4; assault 2; murder 2; wounding man in altercation 1; writing insulting letters 1; talking disrespectfully 1; insulting women 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it 1.

"The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama 1; Florida 2; Georgia 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi 6; Tennessee 1; and Texas 1."

New York Times
DEC 30 1934

FEWER LYNCHINGS IN 1934.

Mobs Killed 15 Negroes This Year —Officers Saved 74 Persons.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 29 (AP).—Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were fifteen lynchings of Negroes in the nation during 1934, a decline of thirteen from 1933, when several of those lynched were white.

The report showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were fifty-one instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," the report stated, "and seven of these were in Northern and Western States and forty-four in Southern States. In forty-six of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total of seventy-four persons, fourteen white men, fifty-seven Negro men and three Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"The States in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama one, Florida two, Georgia one, Kentucky one, Louisiana two, Mississippi six, Tennessee one and Texas one."

New York Herald-Tribune
DEC 31 1934

16 Lynchings in 1934 Represent 43% Decline

Mississippi Leads With 6 and Three States Report 2

Sixteen lynchings in 1934 are listed in a report made public today by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. This figure is twelve less than the list prepared by the association for 1933, representing a decline of almost 43 per cent.

Mississippi leads with six lynchings, followed by Louisiana, Florida and Alabama with two each, and Kentucky, Texas, Georgia and Tennessee with one each.

Walter White, secretary of the association, finds that the decrease in number of lynchings is "due primarily to the fact that fear of Federal legislation caused a complete cessation of lynching while the Costigan-Wagner bill was pending before Congress."

He notes that a great outburst of lynching occurred as soon as it was apparent that Congress would not act on the bill. Federal legislation, he says, is the only hope against lynching, as the fear of it successfully stopped the practice for a time.

In a report covering the year 1934, issued by the International Labor Defense, the number of lynchings is set at twenty-five. This report includes lynchings in which police participated, which, it says, other reports do not include.

Another report, issued December 28 by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, stated that only fifteen lynchings had occurred in the course of last year. He listed only one lynching for Alabama.

Lynchings - 1934
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. - Dec.

4859

PROVIDENCE, R. I.
JOURNAL

DEC 31 1934

LYNCHINGS IN 1934

Statistics just published by the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute in Mississippi show that during the year now closing 15 persons were lynched within the borders of the United States.

This number was 13 less than the number for 1933, 7 more than the record for 1932, 2 more than that for 1931, and 6 less than the number in 1930.

All the lynchings in 1934 occurred in the South. Alabama reported 1, Florida 2, Georgia 1, Kentucky 1, Louisiana 2, Mississippi 6, Tennessee 1 and Texas 1.

Against this showing, the Tuskegee statement reveals a large total of attempted but prevented lynchings: There were 51 of these. We are told that 7 were in Northern and Western States and 44 in the South.

"In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 White men, 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs." Despite the regrettable survival of successful lynchings, these figures show an encouraging activity on the part of the constituted authorities.

The 15 persons who were lynched were all Negroes. The offences charged against them are thus classified: Attempted rape 4, rape 2, murder 2, wounding a man in an altercation 1, associating with White women 1, striking a man 1, writing an insulting letter 1, talking disrespectfully 1, insulting women 1, implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it 1.

A lynching on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in October, 1933, it will be remembered, occurred because of the failure of the authorities to protect a Negro charged with assaulting an aged woman. That deplorable incident had an extraordinary repercussion at the 1934 election in Maryland, when Governor Ritchie, who had taken a strong stand against lynching at the time of the Eastern Shore incident, was defeated for reelection after 15 years as Chief Executive of the State.

In December a year ago President Roosevelt said with unassailable wisdom and pertinency that lynching is collective murder and that "the thinking public seeks a government of its own that will be sufficiently strong to protect the prisoner and at the same time crystallize a public opinion so clear that government of all kinds will be compelled to practice a more certain justice. The judicial function of the Government is the protection of the individual and of the country through quick and certain justice. That function in many places has fallen into a sad state of disrepute. It must be a part of our program to reëstablish it."

On the one hand we must have a public reliance on the orderly processes of law and on the other hand those processes must show themselves swift and sufficient. This dual lesson is enforced by the latest lynching figures compiled by the Tuskegee Institute, a great educational school for Negroes in a State that makes an unfortunate showing in the 1934 figures, with 6 persons lynched out of a total of 15 in the United States as a whole.

NEWS
SAULTE STE .MARIE, MICH.

DEC 31 1934

A Better Record

In 1933 there were 28 lynchings in the United States according to records compiled by Tuskegee Institute and President R. R. Moton has just released figures for 1934 that show 15 lynchings. This is real improvement over last year ~~although it~~ is not as low as 1932 when there were but eight.

There were 51 instances during the year in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. In five of these, armed force was used to ward off mobs. These preventive measures saved the lives of 74 persons; 14 white men, 57 Negro men and three Negro women. Lynchings occurred in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas. The condemnation of society in this kind of lawlessness is gradually reducing the occurrences.

X

LYNCHBURG, VA.
ADVANCE

DEC 31 1934

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Figures for 1934 lynchings released by Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, show that fifteen persons were done to death by mobs, thirteen less than the year previous. All of those lynched were Negroes and eight Southern States were involved, Virginia, however, not being one of them. As compared with other recent years, 1934 showed an improvement over 1930 when there were 21 lynchings but exceeded 1931 and 1932 with eight and thirteen lynchings respectively.

While lawlessness was responsible for fifteen lynchings this year, the vigilance and courage of officers of the law prevented 51 attempts at lynching, according to the Tuskegee report. Seven such instances were noted in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States.

With the release of the lynching statistics, attention is focused on the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill which will undoubtedly be given serious consideration at the approaching session of Congress. Last year a similar measure was introduced but was not acted upon in the rush of other business. However, the same fate may not overtake the new bill which will be brought up.

As condensed by the Richmond Times-Dispatch, the Costigan-Wagner measure contains the following provisions:

"Any officer charged with the duty of protecting a prisoner from a mob who neglects to carry out that duty, is guilty of a felony, and the penalty may be as high as a $5,000 fine, or five years' imprisonment, or both. Any officer who conspires with a mob to allow a prisoner in his control to be injured or killed, likewise is guilty of a felony, and is subject to from five to twenty-five years' imprisonment. Any county in which a person is seriously injured or killed by a mob is liable for damages of from $2,000 to $10,000. Jurisdiction to try cases arising out of the act is vested in the United States District Court, where the State authorities fail to act within 30 days, or where jurors obtainable for service in the State courts are strongly opposed to punishing the offenders. The District Court may try cases arising under the act in any part of its district."

There are two reasons why the measure is likely to receive the approval of Congress. In the first place, the South does not now command the influence in either the House or Senate that it has been accustomed to in past years. The sweep of the Democratic tide in November of this year and of November two years ago sent to Congress a preponderance of Democrats from the east and west. They outnumber the Democrats from the South and therefore hold the balance of power. If the Democrats of these two sections desire to adopt anti-lynching legislation over the opposition of Southern Democrats they can accomplish that purpose without any great difficulty.

In the second place, the federal government has reached out and taken over many obligations heretofore reserved to the commonwealths. To a large extent the States are at fault because they have either supinely permitted Washington to encroach upon their prerogatives or unblushingly requested the national government to assume responsibility for State problems. Congress has therefore become so accustomed to extending the activities of Uncle Sam in almost every conceivable field of endeavor that it would indeed be surprising if the federal legislature did not adopt an anti-lynching measure. The South may resent such legislation but the South is partly to blame for the rise in sentiment for a national effort to wipe out lynching. The South has failed to adequately control the mob spirit.

SELMA, ALA.
TIMES-JOURNAL

DEC 28 1934

DECLINE SHOWN IN LYNCHING FIGURES

Only Fifteen Mob Victims Reported As Compared With 28 in 1933

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28—(AP)—Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the Nation during 1934—all negroes—to show a decline of 13 under the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released today by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law-three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails"

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," President Moton's report stated, "and 7 of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men. 57 negro men and 3 negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape 4; rape 2; murder 2; wounding man in altercation 1; writing insulting letter 1; talking disrespectfully 1; insulting women 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it 1.

"The states in which he lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama 1; Florida 2; Georgia 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi 6; Tennessee 1; and Texas 1."

ALBANY, N. Y.
NEWS

JAN 3 1935

Lynchings

PRESIDENT R. R. MOTON of Tuskegee Institute has issued his annual compilation of lynchings. He reports 15 persons lynched in 1934, or 13 less than the record of 1933, and 7 more than in 1932. All the victims of 1934 lynchings were Negroes and the lynchings were in Southern states. There was one bright spot in the report and that was the recording of the fact that while 51 lynchings were attempted all but 15 of them were prevented, so we have made some progress. Prisoners were removed safely away from mobs in 46 instances, and in five other instances armed men beat back the mobs.

Every time a lynching is prevented serves to militate against this crime of mass murder. Shelbyville, Tenn., recently succeeded in outwitting a mob although the mob burned the courthouse. The trouble too often is that local authorities are too likely to condone lynchings and therefore a federal lynching law is advisable.

NEWARK, O.
ADVOCATE &
AMERICAN TRIBUNE

DEC 31 1934

15 ARE LYNCHED IN LAST YEAR

Records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee institute show 15 persons were lynched in 1934. This is 13 fewer than the number 28 for 1933; seven more than the number, eight for 1932; two more than the number 13 for 1931; and six fewer than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails, and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

In 51 instances, officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and three Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; wounding man in altercation, one; associating with white woman, one; striking man, one; writing insulting letter, one; talking disrespectfully, one; insulting women, one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state follows: Alabama, one; Florida, two; Georgia, one; Kentucky, one; Louisiana, two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one and Texas, one.

OAKLAND, CALIF.
TRIBUNE

JAN 2 [illegible]

THE YEAR AND LYNCHING

To Editor Tribune:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; seven more than the number eight for 1932; two more than the number 13 for 1931; and six less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 Negro men and three Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1, and Texas, 1.

—R. R. MOTON,
President. Tuskeegee Institute.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
REPUBLICAN

DEC 31 1934

LYNCHINGS IN 1934

To the Editor of The Republican:—

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the 1934. I find, according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee institute, that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number, 28, for 1933; seven more than the number, eight, for 1932; two more than the number, 13, for 1931; and six less than the number, 21, for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law, three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 Negro men and three Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

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The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, one; Florida, two; Georgia, one; Kentucky, one; Louisiana, two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one, and Texas, one.

R. R. MOTON, President.

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., December 22, 1934.

Halifax, Nova Scotia

JAN 1 1935

Lynchings Are Lower

LYNCHINGS decreased during the past year in the United States, a report states. While this is encouraging it is horrible to realize that there were still 15 lynchings during 1934. In this country it is difficult to understand the lynch law. It seems contrary to all our principles and ideals of justice.

Let us hope that it never becomes part of our society. If it ever does, that day we have lost a precious possession, one not easily regained.

NEW HAVEN, CONN.
JOURNAL COURIER

DEC 31 1934

1934 LYNCHINGS

To the Editor:

Sir:—I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. 8 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 7 of these were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

R. R. MOTON, President.
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.
ADVERTISER

DEC 29 1934

Lynchings In 1934 Show Sharp Drop

TUSKEGEE, ALA., Dec. 28.—(AP)—records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the Nation during 1934—all neg[illegible]—to show a decline of 13 under the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released today by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law, three were taken from jails, and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," President Moton's report stated, "and seven of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. . . . . A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and three negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

"The States in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1."

Lynchings-1934
Reports on, Sent Press.

4860

Jan. - Dec.

PONTIAC, MICH.
PRESS

JAN 2 1935

LYNCH LAW

The annual report on lynchings in the United States ~~has issued~~ from the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. That institution's concern with the subject hinges on the facts that the lynching evil is almost wholly indigeneous to the South and the majority of its victims are of the colored race.

The spectacle of mob violence and unleashed passions attempting to supplant the orderly processes of law and order is a cancer the blight of which is clearly discernible. Its exercise brutalizes participants and sets an example of lawlessness entirely out of place in any well organized society. Too often an innocent victim is an object of the mob's inflamed fury.

There are improvements to be noted in the report compiled by Tuskegee statisticians. Fifteen persons were lynched during 1934 but this is thirteen less than in 1933. All the victims were Negroes and all the lynchings occurred below the Mason and Dixon line. The seriousness of the lynch situation is not entirely disclosed by these figures. Attempts were made in fifty-one other instances where officers of the law prevented mob action. Seven of these were in Northern or Western States. In all a total of seventy-one persons, fourteen of whom were white, were saved from unlawful rope by officers who fulfilled a sworn duty.

COLUMBUS, O.
OHIO STATE JOURNAL

JAN 4 1935

Fewer Lynchings

IT is gratifying to ~~read the~~ fact, as recorded by Tuskegee Institute, that there was a decline of 43 per cent in lynchings in 1934. Sixteen persons met death at the hands of mobs, and that is just 16 too many, but the trend toward sanity in this regard is cause for rejoicing.

All these mob deaths were inflicted on Negroes, and all occurred in the south. While no lynching is excusable, there is, in the conditions obtaining in the southern states, some explanation for mob violence. But the old notion is exploded that southern white men brought about lynchings because of attacks on white women, for only two of the victims were accused of such conduct.

Dr. Moton, president of Tuskegee, points out that 74 persons were saved from mobs, and permitted to have legal trials. This of itself is a happy item. There were days in the past when few officers cared to expose themselves to the fury of the mob.

America, it should be pointed out, has always had the blackest record among the nations for mob deaths. That it is beginning to lose that record should make every good citizen pleased.

Chattanooga, Tenn.
NEWS

JAN 2 1935

Decline in Lynchings

THERE was a slight decline in lynchings in 1934, as compared to 1933. In the year which just ended, 15 persons were done to death by mobs, the lynchings being distributed as follows: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, one each; Florida and Louisiana, 2 each; Mississippi 6. In 1933 there were 28 lynchings.

Even more encouraging than the decline in the number of lynchings in 1934 was the fact that in 51 instances officers of the law prevented lynchings. Had not there been this show of resistance to mob law on the part of officers, the 1934 totals might have gone much higher.

One display of courage such as Gov. McAlister showed in the Shelbyville crisis will do much to educate the public to the fact that lynchings must cease

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Santa Barbara, Calif.
PRESS

JAN 1 1935

LYNCHING RECORD

ED[illegible]OR, MORNING PRESS: I [illegible]a the following informa[illegible] concerning lynchings for 1934. I find, according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, that there were 15 persons lynched. This is 13 less than for 1933; seven more than for 1932; two more than for 1931; and six less than for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers outside jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons—14 white men, 57 negro men and three negro women—were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; wounding man in altercation, one; associating with white woman, one; striking man, one; writing insulting letter, one; talking disrespectfully, one; insulting women, one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each are as follows: Alabama, one; Florida, two; Georgia, one; Kentucky, one; Louisiana, two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one, and Texas, one.

ROBERT R. MOTON,
President Tuskegee Institute.

MILFORD, MASS.
NEWS

DEC 31 1934

15 Lynchings This Year, All Negroes

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; seven more than the number eight for 1932; two more than the number 13 for 1931; and six less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and three Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; inplicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

HARTFORD, CONN.
TIMES

JAN 2 1935

Lynchings.

It would hardly be right to permit the past year to disappear without noting its challenge with regard to the number of persons killed by mob violence. As long as there are lynchings, Americans should frankly face that blot on their civic escutcheon and in their humiliation resolve to do better the next year and thereafter.

Fifteen persons, all Negroes, were the victims in 1934 of "collective murder," as President Roosevelt aptly called lynchings a year ago. Disgracing as that figure is, it is smaller by 13 than the record of the previous year. However, it is eight more than in 1932; two more than in 1931 and 6 fewer than in 1930. Thus it is seen that the record fluctuates sharply, about what one might expect in dealing with the acts of frenzied mobs.

In describing the circumstances surrounding these lynchings, President Moton of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial institute, points out that in eight instances the lynched persons were in the hands of the law, three victims being taken from jails and five wrenched from the hands of officers. That is familiar proof of the maddened temper of the crowd which shows no respect for the very agencies which it otherwise presumably supports for the maintenance of law and order.

As regards the alleged crimes for which the victims were killed, it is noted that six were for attempted or actual attacks on white women but the other nine were for minor offenses. Again one notes the insane fury of the mob in killing Negroes for such claimed offenses as writing an insulting letter and talking direspectfully. Unlike most other years, all lynchings occurred in the south, Mississippi leading with six.

President Moton also notes the encouraging fact that in 51 instances officers of the law prevented lynchings. A total of 74 persons were thus saved from the savage populace. In view of what the forces of law and order were able to do in 51 cases, there is ground for insisting that an uncompromising attitude on the part of public authorities can further reduce the number of lynchings. To bring that about the force of public opinion will be indispensable, not only in the south but throughout the nation in order that this national disgrace may be recognized for what it is until it has been definitely wiped out

ASHLAND, O.
TIMES GAZETTE

DEC 31 1934

15 LYNCHINGS DURING 1934

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

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Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

GREENSBORO, N. C.
NEWS

DEC 30 1934

GIVES LYNCHING REPORT.

Editor of The Daily News:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; seven more than the number eight for 1932; two more than the number 13 for 1931; and six less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

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The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, one; Florida, two; Georgia, one; Kentucky, one; Louisiana, two; Mississippi; six; Tennessee, one; and Texas, one.

R. R. MOTON.

Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX.
EXPRESS

JAN 1 1935

AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE LYNCHING RECORD

Though the lynch-murder evil was less prevalent during 1934 than in 1933, that condition remains—next to gangland—the gravest challenge to law and order in this country.

The Records and Research Department at Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute reports that the roll of lynching victims dropped from 28 in 1933 to 15 in 1934. Such a decline always arouses the hope that the improvement may continue. Though often disappointed, the patriotic, decent citizens—happily increasing in numbers—who are working to eradicate that blot from the Nation's name may be spurred to renewed effort.

The latest report apparently bears out the theory that the economic situation has something to do with mob outbreaks. The drop coincides with a period of improvement in business and industry. Another significant circumstance is that last year "Judge Lynch" again was confined to his traditional domain, the South. All the victims were negroes and less than half were charged with "the usual crime." One was shot to death by a mob because he had "implicated a white man in a charge of stealing turpentine"!

Of course, the evil is not entirely economic in origin. No matter what economic conditions might be, an enlightened social conscience would not tolerate for a day this relic of barbarism. Certainly the United States in no position to throw stones at bloody Red Russia or Nazi Germany.

A particularly grave aspect of the situation, as indicated by the Tuskegee report, is that eight of the persons lynched were already in the law's hands.

One of the most disturbing incidents does not figure in the Institute's record: When National Guard and local officers foiled the Shelbyville (Tennessee) mob's attempt to "get" the negro on trial there, it fired the Bedford County courthouse. By that act the rioters lynched the law itself. All honor is due Governor McAlister, who swiftly dispatched State troops to the scene, and to Deputy Sheriff Gant, who fought off the mob.

On the credit side of the country-wide record—as Tuskegee has kept it—are 51 instances in which law officers prevented threatened lynchings. Of those cases, 44 were in the South. Altogether, official courage in the face of threats saved 74 persons—including 14 white men—from death at the mob's hands. That quality, which in late years has manifested itself with increasing and heartening frequency, deserves the fullest recognition.

Again a demand is heard for a Federal anti-lynching law. Enactment of such a statute is unlikely, however; if passed, it probably would prove to be but an idle gesture. A more dependable weapon is at hand — popular enlightenment. The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching—working with schools, colleges, churches, civic organizations and newspapers—can accomplish more than all the statutes, State and Federal, put together.

MIAMI, FLA.
HERALD

JAN 1 1935

LYNCHINGS IN 1934

THE year 1934 made a much better lynching record than did the previous year, but not as good a record as was made in the year 1931 and 1932.

There were 15 lynchings in the country last year, or 13 less than in the year 1933, but seven more than in the year 1932 and two more than in the year 1931. The figures do not indicate that there has been a great deal of improvement toward the permanent elimination of the crime of lynching within the past four or five years.

Of the persons lynched last year, seven were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails. All of the persons lynched were negroes.

An encouraging feature of the lynching report, coming from the Tuskegee Institute, is that there were 51 instances where officers of the law prevented lynchings. Of these, seven were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern states. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men 57 negro men and three negro women were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Alabama furnished one lynching; Florida, two; Georgia, one; Kentucky, one; Louisiana, two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one, and Texas, one.

DECATUR, ILL.
REVIEW

JAN 2 1935

Fewer Lynchings.

Fifteen persons were lynched in the United States during 1934 as compared with 28 in 1933 according to the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute of Alabama. While the 1934 record is 13 less than in 1933 it is seven more than 1932; two more than in 1931 and six less than in 1930.

These records kept by the college that trains young Negro men and women are enlightening. One interesting fact is that the number saved from lynching is included. During 1934 there were 51 instances in which the action of officers of the law prevented mob violence. The officers' action saved 74 persons including 14 white men, 57 Negro men and three Negro women.

All those lynched were Negroes. Mississippi leading with six while Florida and Louisiana had two each. The others were in scattered southern states.

Spreading statistics of the year would seem not to help in preventing lynchings, but they do. They reveal that the leaders of the race against whom most of the lynchings are aimed are alive to the situation and making every effort to lead their own people in the ways of law and order.

BAYONNE, N. J.
TIMES

JAN 2 1935

LESS LYNCHINGS IN 1934

Editor, The Bayonne Times,

Dear Sir: I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; seven more than the number eight for 1932; two more than the number 13 for 1931; and six less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the other five instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and three Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, one; Florida, two; Georgia, one; Kentucky, one; Louisiana, two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one; and Texas, one.

R. R. MORTON,
President, Tuskegee Normal
and Industrial Institute.

Jan. - Dec.

Lynchings - 1934
6
Reports on, Sent Press.

4861

BOWLING GREEN, KY.
TIMES JOURNAL

JAN 1 1935

A Bit More Encouraging

There is some encouragement to be found in the reduced number of lynchings that occurred in this country during 1934,

According to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the 8 for 1932; 2 more than the 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

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Of the 15 lync ed, all were Negroes. The offenses charged: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; [illegible] 2; wounding in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating hers in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1. The States in which lynchings occurred and number in each State are: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi 6; Tennessee 1; and Texas, 1.

MOBILE, ALA.
REGISTER

JAN 2 1935

FEWER LYNCHINGS IN 1934

In fifty-one instances officers of the law prevented lynchings during the year 1934, according to the Tuskegee report just released by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute one of the leading negro educational institutions of the United States. It is an encouraging record, for it indicates that lynchings can usually be prevented when officers of the law courageously meet their sworn obligations. The Tuskegee report also indicates that there were thirteen fewer lynchings in 1934 than in the immediately preceding year. That, too, is an encouraging fact.

For a number of years now the Tuskegee Institute has undertaken to keep a record of all lynchings in the United States, the cause of these lynchings, and the color and sex of persons lynched, along with other pertinent data. The Tuskegee report has proved interesting and helpful to students of lynchings in the nation, and is justly regarded as one of the most dependable reports made on the subject with which it deals.

The most significant thing about the report for 1934 is found in the number of lives saved by the action of officers of the law. The lives of seventy-four persons, fourteen white men, fifty-seven negro men and three negro women, were saved by the courage and faithfulness of public officials during the year. It is a creditable record, and again emphasizes the fact that when officers of the law having the custody of prisoners make up their minds to resist mob violence, and to let the law take its course, lynchings can usually be prevented. Of course, there are times when inflamed public sentiment may make it extremely difficult for officers of the law to resist mobs without more serious sacrifice of life than might result from the actions of these mobs; but such instances are not common.

More often than not officers of the law can resist mobs and protect the lives of prisoners under their control without provoking violence. The record of 1934 again indicates what brave and faithful officers can do to prevent lynchings and to thus protect the integrity of the law. It is the wiser, juster way, for it insures the orderly processes of the law and makes more secure that justice which is the high aim of the law always.

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
December 28, 1934

Fifteen Lynchings In U. S. in 1934

Decline of Thirteen From 1933 Is Noted by Tuskegee Institute in Annual Report

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28—(AP)—Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were fifteen lynchings in the nation during 1934—all Negroes—to show a decline of thirteen under the twenty-eight lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released today by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of the Tuskegee Institute, showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were fifty-one instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," President Moton's report stated, "and seven of these were in Northern and Western states and forty-four in Southern states. In forty-six of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the fifteen persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape 4; rape 2; murder 2; wounding man in altercation 1; writing insulting letter 1; talking disrespectfully 1; insulting women 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it 1.

"The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama 1; Florida 2; Georgia 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi 6; Tennessee 1; and Texas 1."

Albany, Ga., Herald
December 28, 1934

"LYNCHINGLESS" COUNTY

Lynching statistics for 1934 have just been made public by Tuskegee Institute. They show 15 lynchings during the year, compared with 28 in 1933. But there were only eight lynchings in 1932, and 13 in 1931. Only one of the 15 cases of death at the hands of mobs in 1934 occurred in Georgia.

Dougherty County has never had a lynching, and I am not sure that there is another county in this section of the state of which that can be said. A number of men charged with capital offenses have been tried and convicted in the county, and there is an impressive list of legal executions, but never yet have officers of the law failed to protect a prisoner menaced by a mob. Indeed, it is probably no more than fair to say that there has never been imminent danger of a lynching in Dougherty County. This community has preferred to uphold the courts, permitting the law to take its orderly course.

The Tuskegee report comments on the fact that vigilant officers averted far more lynchings than occurred this year. There were, it is stated, 51 such instances. Seven of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

HANNIBAL, MO.
COURIER-POST & JOURNAL

1934

FEWER LYNCHINGS.

A falling off of almost fifty percent in lynchings during 1934 is a high spot in statistics for the year which is dying, and an encouraging sign of the times. The Tuskegee Institute reports that records for the year show but fifteen lynchings as compared with twenty-eight for 1933.

The report has a detail which also is deserving of mention. As compared with fifteen mob attempts which succeeded there were 51 instances in which officers of the law averted lynchings. This belies the belief expressed, at times, by some that the officials do not make serious effort to combat mobs. The recent successful action of officers in Tennessee in saving their negro prisoners, despite firing of the courthouse by an irate crowd, is an excellent example of officers determined to prevent mobbing.

Etowah, Tenn. Enterprise
January 10, 1935

LYNCHINGS OVER THE UNITED STATES

Robert R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, gives the following to the press:

"I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to records compiled by Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings; 7 of these were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and 3 negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. Offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

"States in which lynching occurred and numbers are: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; Texas, 1."

Lynn Haven, Fla., Free Press
January 5, 1935

LYNCHING

At Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute founded by Booker T. Washington for the training of colored young men and women has for years kept a careful check on lynching that occurred in America from time to time. This report shows that there were only fifteen persons lynched during 1934, while there were 28 during 1933, eight in 1932, 13 in 1931 and 21 during 1930.

Of the 15 persons lynched during 1934 all were negroes. The offenses charged were attempted rape 4, rape 2, wounding a man in altercation 1, social advances to white woman 1, striking a man 1, writing insulting letter 1, talking disrespectfully 1, insulting women 1, implicating others in a charge in stealing turpentine and bootlegging it 1. These lynchings occurred one in Alabama, two in Florida, one in Georgia, one in Kentucky, two in Louisiana, six in Mississippi, one in Tennessee and one in Texas.

There were seven lynchings prevented in Northern and Western states by officers of the law and 44 in the Southern states.

It is laughable to see some of the papers of Alabama continue to gripe about the destruction of a fiendish brute that had most brutally murdered a young Southern woman recently at Marianna, because he spent a few nights rest and boasting in an Alabama jail before meted out just punishment.

You would think from the way these papers talk that Alabama had never been horrified by cruel murder that demanded denunciation in terms that unmistakingly proved very undesirable. It is unfortunate, deplorable and no state is proud that she bad in her borders people of any race that forget themselves and their place so completely as to commit a fiendish dastardly crime, but just punishment and punishment more in accord with a crime committed will be the ounce of preventive that will prove a pound of cure to a recurrance of such acts.

Florida is glad that her sister state of Alabama was the scene of only one lynching during 1934. We are indeed sorry that it was necessary for Florida to be the scene of two and we sincerely hope that the punishment meted out to the victims will be a reminder to others who might have like desires and stop them BEFORE another lynching is necessary.

Lynchings-1934
&
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. - Dec.

4862

Anderson, S. C., Record
December 29, 1934

Lynchings Show Decline, Report

Tuskegee Shows Mississippi in Lead With Half Dozen.

(BY THE UNITED PRESS)

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 29—Lynchings decreased sharply during 1934 in comparison with 1933, a report of Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, revealed today.

Fifteen lynchings, all of the victims negroes, were reported to the institute's department of records and research this year. The lynch total for 1933 was 28.

All the lawless acts occurred in Southern states, Mississippi showing the lead with six. Others were Florida and Louisiana, two each. Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, one each.

Fifty-one occasions where law officers prevented lynchings were reported, seven instances in Northern and Western states and 44 in the South. Alertness of the law saved 74 persons from lynch death the report continued.

The State

COLUMBIA, S. C.
EDITORIAL ROOMS

FROM THE STATE OF

January 2, 1935.

Fewer Lynchings.

Tuskegee institute shows that there was a gratifying decrease in lynchings in the year 1934. In 1933 there were 33, in 1934 only 15. Of course this is 15 too many, but the smaller figure for last year begins to approach again the low record of eight, set in the year 1932.

The 15 lynchings of 1934 were in seven states, all of them Southern, if we may include Kentucky. South Carolina was free of this crime during the past year.

There was notable activity in preventing lynchings. Officers of the law were able during the year just closed to prevent some 51 attempted lynchings. Striking among these instances was the determined stand of the law, backed by troops, at Shelby, Tenn., only a week or so ago.

Undoubtedly there will be introduced in the next congress the Wagner-Costigan bill for federal intervention to control lynching. The best argument, and the only honest and effective one, against national interference, is prevention of lynchings by local and state authorities in the various states.

New York Herald-Tribun

DEC 29 1934

15 Lynchings in 1934, Drop of 13 From '33 List

Tuskegee Institute Report Says Law Saved 74 Others

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28 (AP).—A Tuskegee Institute report today showed that there had been fifteen lynchings in the nation during 1934—all the victims Negroes. Twenty-eight lynchings were recorded for 1933.

The report, released by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee, said that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were fifty-one instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," Dr. Moton's report said, "and seven of these were in Northern and Western states and forty-four in Southern states. In forty-six of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. Seventy-four persons, fourteen white men, fifty-seven Negro men and three Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the fifteen persons lynched, the offenses were: Attempted assault, 4; assault, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

"The states in which the lynchings occurred are: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1, and Texas, 1."

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
December 28, 1934

Fifteen Lynchings Listed for Year in Tuskegee Figures

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28.—(AP)—Records of Tuskegee Institute Friday showed there were fifteen lynchings in the nation during 1934—all negroes—to show a decline of thirteen under the twenty-eight lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released Friday by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were fifty-one instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," President Moton's report stated, "and seven of these were in northern and western states and in forty-six of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken . . . A total of seveny-four persons fourteen white men, fifty-seven negro men and three negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the fifteen persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted assault, 4; assault, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

"The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee 1, and Texas, 1."

Baton Rouge, La., Times
December 29, 1934

DECREASE NOTED IN LYNCHINGS OF NEGROES IN DIXIE

Two of Fifteen Lawless Acts Staged in Louisiana.

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 29. (UP)—Lynchings decreased sharply during 1934 in comparison with 1933, a report, of Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee institute, revealed today.

Fifteen lynchings, all of the victims negroes, were reported to the institute's department of records and research this year. The lynch total for 1933 was 28.

All the lawless acts occurred in Southern states, Mississippi showing the lead with six. Others were: Florida and Louisiana, two each; Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, one each.

Fifty-one occasions where law officers prevented lynchings were reported, seven instances in Northern and Western states and 44 the South. Alertness of the law saved 74 persons from lynch death, the report continued.

Offenses for which suspects were lynched were listed as follows:

Attempted attack, four; attack, two; murder, two, and one each for wounding a man in an altercation, associating with a white woman, striking a man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrespectfully, insulting women, implicating others in a charge of stealing and bootlegging turpentine.

Kingsport, Tenn. Times
December 28, 1934

15 LYNCHED IN U.S. DURING PAST YEAR

Tuskegee Institute Record Shows Decline In Lynching During 1934

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28. (AP)—Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the nation during 1934—all negroes—to show a decline of 13 under the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

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"Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

"The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1."

Waycross, Ga., Journal-Herald
December 30, 1934

LYNCHING CASES HAVE DECREASED

Only 15 in 1934 As Compared With 28 Last Year; Mississippi Leads With Six.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 29. (U.P.)—Lynching decreased sharply during 1934 in comparison with 1933, a report of Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, revealed today.

Fifteen lynchings, all of the victims Negroes, were reported to the institute's Department of Records and Research this year. The lynch total for 1933 was 28.

All the lawless acts occurred in southern states, Mississippi showing the lead with six. Others were: Florida and Louisiana, two each; Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, one each.

Fifty-one occasions where law officers prevented lynchings were reported, seven instances in northern and western states and 44 in the South. Alertness of the law saved 74 persons from lynch death, the report continued.

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Opelika, Ala. News
December 28, 1934

LYNCHINGS IN NATION SHOW DROP IN 1934

51 Instances Where Officers Halted Lynchings

Tuskegee, Dec. 28.—(AP)—Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the Nation during 1934, all negroes, to show a decline of 13 under 28 the record for 1933.

The report showed 8 of those lynched were in the hands of the law, 3 being taken from jails and 5 from officers outside of jails.

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings" President R. R. Morton's report stated.

Lnchings by states were:

Alabama 1.
Florida 2.
Georgia 1.
Kentucky 1.
Louisiana 2.
Mississippi 6.
Tennessee 1.
Texas 1.

Sumter, S. C., News
December 28, 1934

LYNCHING RECORD

Fifteen Alleged Criminals Were Killed by Mobs During Year

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28.—(AP)—Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the nation during 1934—all negroes—to show a decline of 13 under the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released today by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of the Tuskegee Institute, showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," President Moton's report stated, "and of these 7 were in northern and western states and 44 in Southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken . . . A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and 3 negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted assault, 4; assault, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging, it, 1.

"The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1:; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1."

AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE LYNCHING RECORD

San Antonio
Express
1-1-35

Though the lynch-murder evil was less prevalent during 1934 than in 1933, that condition remains—next to gangland—the gravest challenge to law and order in this country.

The Records and Research Department at Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute reports that the toll of lynching victims dropped from 28 in 1933 to 15 in 1934. Such a decline always arouses the hope that the improvement may continue. Though often disappointed, the patriotic, decent citizens—happily increasing in numbers—who are working to eradicate that blot from the Nation's name may be spurred to renewed effort.

San Antonio

The latest report apparently bears out the theory that the economic situation has something to do with mob outbreaks. The drop coincides with a period of improvement in business and industry. Another significant circumstance is that last year "Judge Lynch" again was confined to his traditional domain, the South. All the victims were negroes and less than half were charged with "the usual crime." One was shot to death by a mob because he had "implicated a white man in a charge of stealing turpentine"!

Of course, the evil is not entirely economic in origin. No matter what economic conditions might be, an enlightened social conscience would not tolerate for a day this relic of barbarism. Certainly the United States is in no position to throw stones at bloody Red Russia or Nazi Germany.

A particularly grave aspect of the situation, as indicated by the Tuskegee report, is that eight of the persons lynched were already in the law's hands.

One of the most disturbing incidents does not figure in the Institute's record: When National Guard and local officers foiled the Shelbyville (Tennessee) mob's attempt to "get" the negro on trial there, it fired the Bedford County courthouse. By that act the rioters lynched the law itself. All honor is due Governor McAlister who swiftly dispatched State troops to the scene, and to Deputy Sheriff Gant, who fought off the mob.

On the credit side of the countrywide record—as Tuskegee has kept it—are 51 instances in which law officers prevented threatened lynchings. Of those cases, 44 were in the South. Altogether, official courage in the face of threats saved 74 persons—including 14 white men—from death at the mob's hands. That quality which in late years has manifested itself with increasing and heartening frequency, deserves the fullest recognition.

Again a demand is heard for a Federal anti-lynching law. Enactment of such a statute is unlikely, however; if passed, it probably would prove to be but an idle gesture. A more dependable weapon is at hand—popular enlightenment. The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and the Southern Co[…]mission on the Study of Lynching working with schools, colle[…] churches, civic organizations and [...]papers—can accomplish more tha[…] the statutes, State and Federal together.

Sanford, Fla. Herald
December 29, 1934

Lynchings, 1934

In spite of several unusually revolting lynchings during the year now coming to a close, the record for 1934 is distinctly better than for the preceding year, and on the whole shows a lessening tendency on the part of mobs to resort to lynch law.

According to figures compiled by the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, 15 persons have been lynched during the current year, or 13 less than in 1933. However, there were only 8 lynchings in 1932, and only 13 in 1931. Eight of the persons lynched this year were already in the hands of the law; of these three were taken from jails, and five from officers outside of jails.

Revealing an increasing tendency on the part of officials to resist lynching parties, there were 51 instances during the year in which officers prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western states and 44 were in Southern states. In 46 of these cases the prisoners were removed or the guards increased. In five cases, armed force was used to repel the mobs. As a result of these 51 cases in which lynchings were prevented, the lives of 14 white men, 57 negro men, and three negro women were saved.

Of the 15 persons who were lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine, 1.

The states in which these lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

Lynchings-1934
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan.-Dec.

4863

Sanford, N. C., Herald
January 7, 1935

RECORDS FURNISHED HERALD SHOW THAT ALL LYNCHINGS IN 1934 WERE IN THE SOUTH

Tuskegee Institute Figures Show That Every Man Lynched Was A Negro; Mississippi Led With Six, and North Carolina Had Clean Slate; Causes Given.

North Carolina came through 1934 with a clean record insofar as lynchings were concerned, although there were 15 such crimes in the United States, according to information compiled and released by the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, negro school.

All 15 lynchings during 1934 occurred in the South, and every man lynched was a negro. The lynching arose in each case, with one possible exception, from racial hatred, judging from the nature of the mob-inciting events.

There were attempts to hang white men, however, on 15 occasions, but each attempt was foiled by the law. Efforts were made to lynch three negro women, but were unsuccessful.

In all, 44 attempted lynchings were prevented in the South, and seven in Northern and Western states. Armed forces were used to prevent five of these unsuccessful sallies, and all the others were averted by precautionary measures such as removing the prisoner or augmenting prison guards.

Offenses

The offenses charged to the 15 negroes lynched last year were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; and one each for the following reasons: wounding man in altercation, associating with white woman, striking man, writing insulting letter, talking disrespectfully, insulting women, and implicating others in a charge of stealing and bootlegging turpentine.

Probably the most sensational lynching attempt of the year occurred at Shelbyville, Tennessee, where a mob burned their court house after Governor Hill McAllister had sent militia to disperse them.

Mississippi held the undesirable honor of being first in lynching totals for the year with six. Florida and Louisiana each had two, while Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Texas and Tennessee had one each. Tennessee's Shelbyville incident gave it a black mark similar to those borne by California and Alabama, both of which states harbored sensational lynchings in 1933.

The total for 1934 is considerably less than that for 1933, but this does not indicate a trend, for there were only eight in 1932, and the two preceding years each had less than 15. The 1933 figure was 28.

ENTERPRISE
Gowanda, N.Y.
JAN 24 1935

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

According to the records of Tuskegee Institute, 15 persons, all Negroes, were lynched in the United States last year, 13 less than in 1933, but nevertheless 15 too many.

In 51 instances of [illegible] lynchings last year, offi[illegible]e law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengance included 14 white men, and three Negro women, the remainder being Negro men.

By states, those lynched were six in Mississippi, two each in Louisiana and Florida, and one each in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennesee and Texas.

Offenses charged against the Negroes illegally executed were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder two; and one each for associating with a white woman; insulting a white woman, striking a white man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrespeictfully, wounding a white man, and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

Three of those lynched were taken from jails; five were taken from officers of the law while under arrest; the others were apprehended by mobsters before being legally arrested.

In recent years the number of victims of lynch law has been greatly decreased, especially during the last decade, the smallest number being eight, in 1932.

When it is recalled that in 1892 no less than 255 persons were lynched, this frightful total including 100 white men, the decrease in the prevalence of this crime may be better realized. During the 50 years in which records have been kept, since 1885, no less than 4,189 persons have been lynched in the United States, of whom 985 were white.

AUBURN IND COURIER
TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1935

PREVENTED LYNCHINGS

For some years Tuskegee Institute has kept an accurate record of lynchings in the United States. Knowledge of the facts surrounding lynching is considered an important part of an intelligent effort to check this lawless American custom.

The record for 1934 was one particularly encourageing feature in addition to the fact that there were only 15 lynchings as compared with 28 in 1933. The cheering fact is that so many lynchings were prevented. On 74 different occasions angry mobs gathered for the purpose of lynching somebody. And each time force or strategy on the part of public oficials dispersed or held the mob in check until the danger was past. It has been the lack of a determined stand on the part of officers of the law which permitted lynching to become so common.

Newburyport Mass. News
JAN 21 1935

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WYMORE (NEB.) WYMOREAN
JAN. 24, 1935 J29

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In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengance included 14 white men, and three Negro women, the remained being Negro men.

By states, those lynching were, six in Mississippi, two each in Louisiana and Florida, and one each in Alabama, Georgie, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

Offenses charged against the Negroes illegally executed were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; and on each for associating with a white woman: insuluting a white women, striking a white man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrespectfully, wounding a white man and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

Three of those lynched were taken from jails; five were taken from officers of the law while under arrest; the others were apprehended by mobsters before being legally arrested.

In recent years the number of victims of lynch law has been greatly decreased, especially during the last decade, the smallest number being eight in 1932.

When it is recalled that in 1892 no less than 2 5 persons were lynched this frightful total including 100 white men, the decrease in the prevalence of this crime may be better realized. During the 50 years in which records have been kept, since 1885, no less than 4,189 persons have been lynched in the United States, of whom 985 were white.

CROSSVILLE TENN. CHRONICLE (wk)
JAN. 17, 1935 J23

FIFTEEN PERSONS ARE LYNCHED DURING 1934

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number of 28 in 1932; 7 more than the number of 8 in 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1;

associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi 6; Tennessee 1; and Texas, 1.

LITERARY DIGEST N Y CITY
SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1935

The Lynchings of 1934

Fifteen people, all Negroes, were lynched during 1934, according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute. This number is thirteen less than the number, twenty-eight, lynched in 1933; seven more than the number, eight, in 1932; two more than the number, thirteen, in 1931; and six less than the number, twenty-one, in 1930. Eight of those lynched were in the hands of the law, three of these being taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

In fifty-one instances officers of the law prevented lynchings, seven of these being in Northern and Western States, and forty-four in Southern States. In forty-six of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented, or other precautions were taken. In the other five instances armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. Fourteen white men, fifty-seven negro men and three negro women were saved from violence.

The offenses charged against those illegally done to death were: attempted rape four; rape, two; murder, two; wounding man in altercation, one; association with white woman, one; striking man, one; writing insulting letter, one; talking disrespectfully, one; insulting woman, one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, one.

Mississippi led in the number of lynchings, six; Florida and Louisiana came next with two each; and one each was recorded for Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Texas.

Naugatuck Conn
News
JAN 23 1935

Preven. d Lynchings

For some years Tuskegee institute has kept an accurate record of lynchings in the United States. Knowledge of the facts surrounding lynching is considered an important part of any intelligent effort to check this lawless American custom.

The record for 1934 has one particularly encouraging feature, in addition to the fact that there were only 15 lynchings as compared with 28 in 1933. The cheering fact is that so many lynchings were prevented. On 74 different occasions angry mobs gathered for the purpose of lynching somebody. And each time force or strategy on the part of public officials dispersed or held the mob in check until the danger was past. It has been the lack of a determined stand on the part of officers of the law which permitted lynching to become so comm

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Reidsville N.C.
Review
JAN 23 1935

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

According to the records of Tuskagee Institue, 15 persons, all negroes, were lynched in the United States last year, 13 less than in 1933, but nevertheless 15 too many.

In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengeance included 14 white men, and three negro women, the remainder being negro men.

By states those lynched were, six in Mississippi, two each in Louisiana and Florida, and one each in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

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Three of those lynched were taken from jails; five were taken from officers of the law while under arrest; and others were apprehended by mobsters before being legally arrested.

In recent years the number of victims of lynch law has been greatly decreased, especially during the last decade, the smallest number being eight in 1932.

When it is recalled that in 1892 no less than 255 persons were lynched, this frightful total including 100 white men, the decrease in the prevalence of this crime may be better realized. During the 50 years in which records have been kept, since 1885, no less than 4,189 persons have been lynched in the United States, of whom 985 were white

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REGISTER
Pine Plains, N.Y.
JAN 31 1935

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

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In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengance included 14 white men, and three Negro women, the remainder being Negro men.

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Lynchings - 1934
Reports on, Sent Press -

Jan. - Dec.

4864

SHARON PA HERALD
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1935

Prevented Lynchings.

For some years Tuskegee Institute has kept an accurate record of lynchings in the United States. Knowledge of the facts surrounding lynching is considered an important part of any intelligent effort to check this lawless American custom.

The record for 1934 has one particularly encouraging feature, in addition to the fact that there were only 15 lynchings as compared with 28 in 1933. The cheering fact is that so many lynchings were prevented. On 74 different occasions angry mobs gathered for the purpose of lynching somebody. And each time force or strategy on the part of public officials dispersed or held the mob in check until the danger was past. It has been the lack of a determined stand on the part of officers of the law which permitted lynching to become so common.

ANDERSON IND HERALD
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1934

The Yearly Lynchings Disgrace

The diabolical institution of lynchings by mobs was perpetuated during the past year to the extent of fifteen persons killed. As deplorable as this fact is, there is some consolation in the thought that this figure represents a decrease of thirteen from the 1933 total. However, we cannot assume to have made much progress in departing from this form of savagery in recent years for the 1934 report is seven points worse than 1932 and two more than in 1931.

According to records kept by the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law, three being taken from jails and five from officers outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law had the courage and stamina to thwart mobs intent on lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states.

Of the fifteen persons lynched, all were Negroes. States whose records were blotched by the mobs and the number of lynchings in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1, and Texas, 1.

Mob psychology constitutes a force which, in most instances, can be stopped only by the fear of bullets. Lynchings are heathenish and must be treated as such if they are to be stopped. Perhaps some day society will find a way to prevent any desire among Americans to engage in mob action but it seems we still have a long way to go.

BLOOMINGTON ILL. PANTAGRAPH
TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1935

Year's Lynching Record Smaller

At this time of every year mimeographed sheets come to the newspapers recording the number of lynchings which took place within the closing year. It comes from the research department of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial institute, an institution for the education and enlightenment of Negroes, located in Alabama.

According to this authority, the number of lynchings in 1934 was 15, which is 13 less than the total of 28 for the year 1933; seven more than the 8 recorded in 1932, two more than the record for 1931, and 6 less than the total for 1930.

Eight of the persons lynched during the year were in the hands of the law when violently mobbed and killed. Three were taken from jails and five from officers outside of jails.

However, officers of the law prevented 51 near lynchings; seven in northern and western states, 44 in southern states. A total of 74 persons, 14 whites and 57 Negroes, were saved from possible death by mobs.

All the victims of the 15 lynchings were Negroes. Murders and rape were the chief crimes charged against them. Florida and Louisiana each had two lynchings, Mississippi six, and there was one each in the states of Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and Texas.

While authentic records of lynchings seem to have no special effect on the increase or decrease of such outbreaks, the Tuskegee Institute performs a service in keeping such records.

ST. LOUIS MO. GLOBE-DEMOCRAT
JAN 16 1935

50-YEAR LYNCHING RECORD.

The figures given at the end of a year on lynchings are not always the final figures, but with January half gone the Tuskegee Institute report stands unamended. It shows that a total of 15, all Negroes, were mob victims in 1934, three being taken from jails and five from the custody of officers. The number was 28 in 1933, 8 in 1932, 13 in 1931 and 21 in 1930.

In 51 instances during 1934, lynchings were prevented by the authorities, 44 in Southern states, and the lives of 14 white men, 57 Negro men and three Negro women were saved. The most outstanding example of resolute action on the part of authorities was, of course, at Shelbyville, Tenn., on December 19 last, when four of a mob that succeeded in burning the Courthouse were killed in reserving E. K. Harris to be dealt with by the law. In four other instances prisoners were protected by armed force. Of the 15 lynched in 1934, six were in Mississippi, two each in Florida and Louisiana and one each in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

The figures for 50 years, as now made up, beginning with 1885, show that a total of 4372 persons have met death in the United States at the hands of mobs, of whom more than 1050 were white. A fact that relieves to some extent the somber impression made by this appalling total and encourages antilynching effort is that the annual average of 87 has not been approximated since the 83 total of 1919. While Mississippi, which had a total of more than 426 in the 50 years, had six last year, Louisiana, with a total exceeding 290, had but two, and Alabama with a total of 268, Georgia with a total of 439, Kentucky with a total of 123, Tennessee with a total of 165 and Texas with a total of 290 each had but one last year.

Mobilization of public opinion against the mob pays.

4864

[illegible]MINGHAM ALA. NEWS
JAN. 1, 1935

The Lynching Record For Last Year

There were 15 lynchings in the United States in 1934, according to the records compiled by Tuskegee Institute. All of the victims were Negroes, and all of the lynchings took place in the South. The states in which the lynchings took place and the number in each are as follows: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, 1 each; Florida and Louisiana, 2 each, and Mississippi, 6.

The total for last year represents a sharp decline from that of 1933, when there were 28 lynchings, not all of which were in the South. The record for 1933 was the worst in several years. Before that time lynchings had been on the decline steadily, from 21 in 1930 to 13 in 1931 and only 8 in 1932.

There were many attempts at lynching last year which were prevented. The Tuskegee Institute report credits officers of the law with preventing lynchings in 51 instances. Of these, 44 were in the South and 7 in other parts of the country. That is a commendable showing on the part of the law-enforcement agencies, and would seem to indicate a growing realization on the part of officers of their duty to safeguard prisoners from mobs and an increasing resistance to the mob spirit.

The decrease in lynchings in 1934 from the exceptionally high total of the year before, it is hoped, means that the downward trend which had been in progress for some years before 1933 has been resumed and will continue. When the total fell to 8 in 1932, there was hope that within a few years this form of mob violence would disappear altogether. Now that 1934 has shown a reduction from the total in 1933, that hope may be revived. If the year now beginning shows a further decline, we may again believe that the practice of lynching is on its way out in the United States.

Eve.
NASHVILLE. TENN., TENNESSEAN
DEC. 29, 1934
J4

The Lynching Record.

This will be remembered as a season of lynching and violence in Middle Tennessee, but it is pleasing to note from the annual report of Dr. R. R. Moton of Tuskegee Institute, that there was a decline of nearly 100 per cent in the total number of lynchings for the year.

Twenty-eight persons met their deaths at the hands of mobs in 1933, but there were only fifteen victims in 1934, all occurring in Southern states. Tennessee is credited with one lynching, presumably that of the Maury County negro who was abducted shortly after his release from the Davidson County jail after having been exonerated by the grand jury.

This is the ugly side of Dr. Moton's report, but it has its brighter aspect in the announcement that there were fifty-one instances where officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven times this was done in Northern and Western states and forty-four times in the South.

There need be no surprise that all of the fifteen mob victims of the year were negroes, and that only six of them were charged with rape or attempted criminal attack. The other offenses which brought violence were murder, talking disrespectfully, writing insulting letters, and implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging.

Mississippi had the most lynchings, with six; Florida and Louisiana had two apiece, and Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas are credited with but one.

Every reduction of the lynching death list is something to be grateful for, and it is to be hoped that another year will bring still greater respect for the law in the South where all the acts of violence were concentrated this y

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Bettendorf, Ia., News
THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 193

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

According to the records of Tuskegee Institute, 1 persons, all Negroes, were lynched in the Unite States last year, 13 less than in 1933, but nevertheless 15 too many.

In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengance included 14 white men, and three Negro women, the remainder being Negro men.

Offenses charged against the Negroes illegally executed were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two murder, two; and one each for associating with a white woman; insulting a white woman; striking a white man; writing an insulting letter; talking disrespectfully; wounding a white man; and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

Three of those lynched were taken from jails; five were taken from officers of the law while under arrest; the others were apprehended by mobsters before being legally arrested.

In recent years the number of victims of lynch law has been greatly decreased, especially during the las decade, the smallest number being eight in 1932.

When it is recalled that in 1892 no less than 255 persons were lynched, this frightful total including 100 white men, the decrease in the prevalence of this crime may be better realized. During the 50 years in which records have been kept, since 1885, no less than 4,189 persons have been lynched in the United States, of whom 985 were white.

DURANT, OKLA., NEWS
FEB. 1, 1935

15 Lynched In 1934

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When it is recalled that in 1892 no less than 255 persons were lynched, this frightful total including 100 white men, the decrease in the prevalence of this crime may be better realized. During the 50 years in which records have been kept, since 1885, no less than 4,189 persons have been lynched in the United States of whom 985 were white.

Booneville Miss. Independ't
FEB. 1. 1935
F5

LYNCHING RECORD

According to records kept by the Tuskegee Institute there were 15 people, all negroes, lynched in the United States in the United States in the year 1934. The record made by this state in the matter of taking human life by violence is one that no good citizen can defend. Out of the 15 lynchings in the United States six of them occurred in Mississippi. Louisiana and Florida contributed two each and Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas one each. The record for 1934 is better than that of 1933 when 28 people were lynched.

The situation along this line has greatly improved but there is no excuse for lynching people. It does no good, it does not reduce crime and simply makes a bad situation worse. It is said that in 1892 there were 255 people lynched, 100 of them being white men. And in the 50 year period from 1885 to the present 4,189 people have been lynched in the United States and 985 of them were white men. The record is one that we can not be proud to own but we are proud of the improvement along this line. Public sentiment should frown on taking human life without due process of law. Let it be done by law. An orderly trial and a legal hanging is better than mob violence.

GENEVA N Y TIMES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 1935

PREVENTED LYNCHINGS

For some years Tuskegee Institute has kept an accurate record of lynchings in the United States. Knowledge of the facts surrounding lynching is considered an important part of any intelligent effort to check this lawless American custom.

The record for 1934 has one particularly encouraging feature, in addition to the fact that there were only 15 lynchings as compared with 28 in 1933. The cheering fact is that so many lynchings were prevented. On [illegible] different occasions angry mobs gathered for the purpose of lynching somebody. And each time force or strategy on the part of public officials dispersed or held the mob in check until the danger was past. It has been the lack of a determined stand on the part of officers of the law wh[illegible]itted lynching to become so common.

Lynchings-1934
Reports on, sent Press.

Jan-Dec-

4865

ROCK ISLAND ILL ARGUS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 193

Fewer Lynchings.

According to Robert R. Moton, president o Tuskegee Normal and Industrial institute here were but 15 persons lynched in 1934. Thi s 13 less than the number, 28, for 1933; seve nore than in 1932, two more than in 1931, an six less than in 1930. Eight of the 15 lynche n 1934 were in the hands of the law; thre were taken from jails and five from officer of the law outside of prisons.

There were 51 instances, Mr. Moton says n which officers prevented lynchings. Seve of these were in northern and western state and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or th guards augmented, or other precautions taken In the five other instances armed force wa used to repel the would-be lynchers. A tota of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro me and three negro women were thus saved fro death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroe The offenses charged were: Attempted rap four; murder, two; wounding man in altercation, one; associating with white women, one striking man, one; insulting letter, one; talking disrespectfully, one; insulting wome one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, one.

Lynchings took place, as to location a follows: Alabama, one; Florida, two; Georgi one; Kentucky, one; Louisiana, two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one, and Texas, one.

Thus it is seen that the record fluctuates sharply, about what one might expect in dealings with the acts of frenzied mobs.

In describing the circumstances surrounding these lynchings, President Moton of the Tuskegee Normal Industrial Institute, points out that in eight instances the lynched persons were in the hands of the law, three victims being taken from jails and five wrenched from the hands of officers. This is familiar proof of the maddened temper of the crowd which shows no respect for the very agencies which it otherwise presumably supports for the maintenance of law and order.

As regards the alleged crimes for which the victims were killed, it is noted that six were for attempted or actual attacks on white women but the other nine were for minor offenses. Again one notes the insane fury of the mob in killing Negroes for such claimed offenses as writing an insulting letter and talking disrespectfully. Unlike most other years, all lynchings occurred in the south, Mississippi leading with six.

President Moton -tlso notes the encouraging fact that in 51 instances officers of the law prevented lynchings. A total of 74 persons were thus saved from the savage populace. In view of what the forces of law and order were able to do in 51 cases, there is ground for insisting that an uncompromising attitude on the part of public authorities can further reduce the number of lynchings. To bring that about the force of public opinion will be indispensable, not only in the south but throughout the nation in order that this national disgrace ~~may~~ be recognized for what it is ~~until~~ it has been definitely wiped out.

ANSONIA, CONN. SENTINEL

JAN 11 1935

LYNCHINGS.

(Hartford Times.)

It would hardly be right to permit the past year to disappear without noting its challenge with regard to the number of persons killed by mob violence. As long as there are lynchings, Americans should frankly face that blot on their civic escutcheon and in their humiliation resolve to do better the next year and thereafter.

Fifteen persons all Negroes, were the victims in 1934 of "collective murder," as President Roosevelt aptly called lynchings a year ago. Disgracing as that figure is, it is smaller by 13 than the record of the previous year. However, it is eight more than in 1932; two more than in 1931 and 6 fewer than in 1930.

GILMER (TEX.) MIRROR
JAN. 25, 1935
F

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

According to the records of Tuskegee Institute, 15 persons all Negroes, were lynched in the United States last year, 13 less than in 1933, but nevertheless 15 too many.

In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengance included 14 white men, and three negro women, the remainder being negro men.

By states, those lynched were, six in Mississippi, two each in Louisiana and Florida, and one each in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

Offenses charged against the negroes illegally executed were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; and one each for associating with a white woman, striking a white man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrespectfully, wounding a white man, and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

Three of those lynched were taken from jails; five were taken from officers of the law while under arrest; the others were apprehended by mobsters before being legally arrested.

In recent years the number of victims of lynch law has been greatly decreased, especially during the last decade, the smallest number being eight in 1932.

When it is recalled that in 1892 no less than 255 persons were lynched, this frightful total including 100 white men the decrease in the prevalence of this crime may be better realized. During the 50 years in which records have been kept, since 1885, no less than 4,189 persons have been lynched in the United States, of whom 985 were white.

Moravia, Iowa Union.
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1935

FIFTEEN LYNCHED IN 1934

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KINGSTON N Y DAILY LEADER
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1935

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

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Suburban N J
Weekly Visitor
JAN 31 1935

Lynchings Last Year

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KANSAS CITY, MO., JOURNAL
JAN. 15, 1935 J16

HORRIBLE INJUSTICE.

To the Editor of the Journal-Post:

Some time ago you published a letter in your columns from Dr. Moton of Tuskegee institute, concerning the number of lynchings in the United States during the past year. All citizens with a sense of social justice are horrified by this annual report of Dr. Moton and realize that unless action is taken quickly for the extermination of this flagrant act upon the constitutional rights of American citizens to a free and just trial, it will prove one factor in the overthrow of our constitutional government.

The inter-racial commission of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America and also that of the Kansas City Council of Churches are therefore much concerned that every effort be made on the part of our thoughtful citizens to secure the passing of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill in congress during this session.

We trust you and your readers will exert every influence possible toward this end.

ALBERT J. DAHLBY,
Chairman, Commission on
Race Relations.
Kansas City, Mo.

ARMSTRONG, MO., HERALD
JAN. 31, 1935 F3

15 LYNCHED IN 1934.

According to the records of the Tuskegee Institute, 15 persons all Negroes, were lynched in the United States last year, 13 less than in 1933, but nevertheless 15 too many.

In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengance included 14 white men, and three Negro women, the remainder being Negro men.

By states, those lynched were, 6 in Mississippi, 2 each in Louisiana and Florida, and one each in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

Offenses charged against the Negroes illegally executed were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; and one each for associating with a white woman; insulting a white woman, striking a white man, writing an insulting letter talking disrespectfully, wounding a white man, and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

Three of those lynched were taken from jails; five were taken from officers of the law while under arrest; the others were apprehended by mobsters before being legally arrested.

In recent years the number of victims of lynch law has been greatly decreased, especially during the last decade, the smallest number being 8, in 1932.

When it is recalled that in 1892 no less than 255 persons were lynched, this frightful total including 100 white men, the decrease in the prevalence of this crime may be better realized. During the 50 years in which records have been kept, since 1885, no less than 4,189 persons have been lynched in the United States, of whom 985 were white.

WAURIKA, OK., NEWS DEMOCRAT
JAN. 25, 1935 F4

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

According to the records of Tuskegee Institute, 15 ~~persons, al Negroes, were~~ lynched in the United States last year, 13 less than in 1933, but nevertheless 15 too many.

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Three of those lynched were taken from jails; five were taken from officers of the law while under arrest; the others were apprehended by mobsters before being legally arrested.

In recent years the number of victims of lynch law has been very greatly decreased, especially during the last decade, the smallest number being eight, in 1932.

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Pocatello (Idaho) State Journal
FEBRUARY 6, 1935

LYNCHING RECORD IMPROVING

The Tuskegee Institute reports that the lynching record for this ~~enlightened country~~ was not quite so bad for 1934 as for 1933, though fifteen lynchings were indulged in by Americans in the past year. Aside from the reduced number of lynchings that actually took place is the news that, of 51 attempted lynchings, 44 were prevented; in 5 of the cases it was necessary to resort to armed force to protect the would-be victims from the infuriated, senseless mobs. It is encouraging, also, to note that officials of southern states were especially active and courageous in affording protection to negroes in many instances, an act not listed as a custom in that section where too often the officials have been part of the lawless mob.

Public opinion is turning against lawlessness of every type just now, and lynching is no exception. Hereafter those officials permitting and condoning this custom of the dark ages will, along with communities, be listed as the unenlightened portion of our citizenry. Four southern states—Arkansas, Virginia and the two Carolinas—did much to redeem the good name of the South by being free from lynchings the past year, but Mississippi displayed unusual savagery by furnishing six out of the fourteen in the land.

TWIN FALLS, IDA., NEWS
JANUARY 29, 1935

PREVENTED LYNCHINGS

For some years Tuskegee Institute has kept an accurate record of lynchings in the United States. Knowledge of the facts surrounding lynchings is considered an important part of any intelligent effort to check this lawless American custom.

The record for 1934 has one particularly encouraging feature, in addition to the fact that there were only 15 lynchings as compared with 28 in 1933. The cheering fact is that so many lynchings were prevented. On 74 different occasions angry mobs gathered for the purpose of lynching somebody. And each time force or strategy on the part of public officials dispersed or held the mob in check until the danger was past. It has been the lack of a determined stand on the part of officers of the law which permitted lynching to become so common.

Lynchings-1934
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. -Dec.

4866

SAVANNAH, GA. NEWS

DEC 29 1934

FIFTEEN NEGROES LYNCHED

Fifty-one Instances Where Officers Prevented Lynchings

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28 (AP).—There were fifty-one instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings in 1934, when fifteen negroes were lynched throughout the nation.

This information was contained today in a report released by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegge Institute, one of the leading negro institutions of the country.

There were thirteen fewer lynchings this year than recorded for 1933.

In the instances where officers prevented the lynchings, the report said "seven were in northern and western states and forty-four in southern states."

The states where the lynchings occurred and the number in each state: Alabama 1; Florida 2; Georgia 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi 6; Tennessee 1. and Texas 1.

SAVANNAH, GA. Pres

DEC 28 1934

15 LYNCHINGS OCCURRED IN 1934

DECREASE OF 13 FOR YEAR SHOWN IN TUSKEGEE REPORT

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28—R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, has issued his figures on lynchings in 1934. He finds there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; seven more than the number eight for 1932; two more than the number 13 for 1931, and six less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails, and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western states, and 44 in Southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented, or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and three negro women were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted assault, 4; assault, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1, and Texas. 1.

Woodbury, Tenn. Courier
January 25, 1935

Decrease In Lynchings.

According to the records of Tuskegee Intsitute, 15 persons, all Negroes were lynched in the United States last year, 13 less than in 1933, but nevertheless 15 too many.

In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengeance included 14 white men, and three Negro women, the remainder being Negro men.

By states, those lynched were, six in Mississippi, two each in Louisiana and Florida, and one each in Alabama, Georgia, Knetucky, Tennessee and Texas.

Offenses charged against the Negroes illegally executed were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two and one each for associating with a white woman; insulting a white woman, striking a white man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrespectfully, wounding a white man, and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

Three of those lynched were taken from jails; five were taken from officers of the law while under arrest the others were apprehended by mobsters before being legally arrested.

In recent years the number of victims of lynch law has been greatly decreased, especially during the last decade, the smallest number being eight in 1932.

When it is recalled that in 1892 no less than 255 persons were lynched this frightful total including 100 white men, the decrease in the prevalence of this crime may be better realized. During the 50 years in which records have been kept, since 1885, no less than 4,189 persons have been lynched in the United States, of whom 985 were white

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Americus, Ga., Recorder
January 30, 1935

15 LYNCHED IN 1934.

According to the records of Tuskegee Institute, fifteen persons, all negroes, were lynched in the United States last year, 13 less than in 1933, but nevertheless 15 too many.

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Butler, Ga., Herald
January 31, 1935

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute and announced by R. R. Moton, President of institution, there ere 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law. There 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken, In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white; 57 negro men and 3 negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs. Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes.

HERALD
Florence, Ala
JAN 25 1935

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

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Alpharetta, Ga., Progress
January 31, 1935

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Mt. Sterling Ky. Sentinel-Democrat
JAN. 24, 1935 128

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

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GOWANDA N Y ENTERPRISE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1935

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Alexandria Va.
Gazette
JAN 18 1935

PREVENTED LYNCHINGS

For some years Tuskegee Institute has kept an accurate record of lynchings in the United States. Knowledge of the facts surrounding lynching is considered an important part of any intelligent effort to check this lawless American custom.

The record for 1934 has one particularly encouraging feature, in addition to the fact that there were only 15 lynchings as compared with 28 in 1933. The cheering fact is that so many lynchings were prevented. On 74 different occasions angry mobs gathered for the purpose of lynching somebody. And each time force or strategy on the part of public officials dispersed or held the mob in check until the danger was past. It has been the lack of a determined stand on the part of officers of the law which permitted lynching to become so common.

CITIZEN
Franklin Pa
JAN 23 1935

FEWER LYNCHINGS REPORTED

It may surprise the average newspaper reader to learn that there were 13 fewer lynchings in 1934 than in the preceding year. Several were of such a gruesome nature, and the mob action for the moment so "celebrated," that one might probably jump at the conclusion that the mob spirit is worse than it has ever been.

The Tuskegee Institute in Alabama keeps close check on matters of this kind. It reports one lynching having occured in Alabama, two in Florida, two in Louisiana, six in Mississippi, and one each in Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas. This is a total of 15 for the year which has just gone into history.

Fifty-one instances were listed where officers of the law prevented mobs from taking the law in their own ruthless hands—and 44 of these were in the southern states. Time was when officers in the South, as many well know, turned their faces the other way, or absented themselves from the scene on some pretext, allowing vengeance to be visited upon the guilty without due process of trial.

All of the 15 who were lynched were negroes, one paying the penalty for merely speaking disrespectfully. The others were mostly for crimes against morality.

The psychology of the mob is, after all, that of the French Revolution—kill, kill, kill! And civilization backslides every time it happens.

Sordid pages of human conduct can be forgotten if mob action can be eliminated.

Lynchings - 1934.
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. - Dec.

4867

MOUNDSVILLE W VA JOURNAL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1935

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

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Offenses charged against the Negroes illegally executed were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; and one each for associating with a white woman; insulting a white woman, striking a white man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrespectfully, wounding a white man, and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

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TULSA, OKLA., AMER. SATURDAY NIGHT
JAN. 5, 1935 J16

LYNCHINGS DECLINE

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—Records of Tuskegee institute show there were 15 lynchings [illegible] during 1934—all negroes—to show a decline of 13 under 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee institute, showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," President Moton's report stated, "and seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. . . . Total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and three negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes.

"The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, one; Florida, two; Georgia, one; Kentucky, one; Louisiana, two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one, and Texas, one."

HICKMAN KY. COURIER
JAN. 10, 1935

15 LYNCHINGS LAST YEAR, TUSKEGEE RECORDS SHOW

Fifteen persons, all of them Negroes have been lynched throughout the past year in the United States, marking 1 less than the number 28 for 1935, records compiled in the department of records and reseach of Tuskegee Institute show.

In 1932, lynchings amounted to 8, while in 1931 they ran to 13 and in 1930 to 21. Eight of the persons lynched in 1934, the Tuskegee record states, were in the hands of the law, three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails. There were, however, 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Kentucky, 1; Alabama, 1; Tennessee, 1; Florida, 2; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Georgia, 1; and Texas, 1. Offenses charged were attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; association with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

KEARNEY NEBR. TRIBUNE
JAN. 5, 1935

"Lynch" Law Takes 15 Lives During Year

Tuskegee President Writes Summary; All Were Colored.

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama
Jan. 1, 1935.

Editor, Tribune:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934:

I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 of 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1:

KENOSHA WIS NEWS
MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 1935

Prevented Lynchings

For some years Tuskegee Institute has kept an accurate record of lynchings in the United States. Knowledge of the facts surrounding lynching is considered an important part of any intelligent effort to check this lawless American custom.

The record for 1934 was one particularly encouraging feature, in addition to the fact that there were only 15 lynchings as compared with 28 in 1933. The cheering fact is that so many lynchings were prevented. On 74 different occasions angry mobs gathered for the purpose of lynching somebody. And each time force or strategy on the part of public officials dispersed or held the mob in check until the danger was past. It has been the lack of a determined stand on the part of officers of the law which permitted lynching to become so common.

BETHLEHEM PA GLOBE TIMES
FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 1935

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Visitor
Audubon, N.J.
JAN 31 1935

Lynchings Last Year

According to the records of the Tuskegee Institute, 15 persons, all Negroes were lynched in the United States last year, 13 less than in 1933, but nevertheless 15 too many.

In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengeance included 14 white men, and three Negro women, the remainder being Negro men.

By states, those lynched were, six in Mississippi, two each in Louisiana and Florida, and one each in Alabama Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

Offenses charged against the Negroes illegally executed were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; and one each for associating with a white woman; insulting a white woman, striking a white man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrespectfully, wounding a white man, and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

Three of those lynched were taken from jails; five were taken from officers of the law while under arrest; the others were apprehended by mobsters before being legally arrested.

In recent years the number of victims of lynch laws has been greatly decreased, especially during the last decade, the smallest number being eight, in 1932.

When it is recalled that in 1892 no less than 255 persons were lynched, this frightful total including 100 white men, the decrease in the prevalence of this crime may be better realized. During the 50 years in which records have been kept, since 1885, a total of 4189 persons have been lynched in the United States, of whom 985 were white.

MASSILLON OHIO EVE INDEP
MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 1935

PREVENTED LYNCHINGS

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GENEVA N Y TIMES
MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 1935

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STAR
Stonington, Ill.
JAN 24 1935

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

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GUNTERSVILLE, ALA., ADVERTISER
JAN. 16, 1935 122

THE LYNCHINGS OF 1934

Fifteen people, all Negroes, were lynched during 1934, according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute. This number is thirteen less than the number, twenty-eight, lynched in 1933; seven more than the number, eight, in 1932; two more than the number, thirteen, in 1931; and six less than the number, twenty-one, in 1930. Eight of those lynched were in the hands of the law, three of these being taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

In fifty-one instances officers of the law prevented lynchings, seven of these being in Northern and Western States, and forty-four in Southern States. In forty-six of the instances the prisoners were removed, or the guards augmented, or other precautions were taken. In the other five instances armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. Fourteen white men, fifty-seven negro men and three negro women were saved from violence.

The offense charged against those illegally done to death were: attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; wounding man in altercation, one; association with white woman, one; striking man, one; writing insulting letter, one; talking disrespectfully, one; insulting woman, one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, one.

Mississippi led in the number of lynchings, six; Florida and Louisiana came next with two each; and one each was recorded for Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Texas.—Literary Digest.

CORRY PA JOURNAL
THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 1935

PREVENTED LYNCHINGS

For some years Tuskegee Institute has kept an accurate record of lynchings in the United States. Knowledge of the facts surrounding lynching is considered an importanct part of any intelligent effort to check this lawless American custom.

The record for 1934 has one particularly encouraging feature, in addition to the fact that there were only 15 lynchings as compared with 28 in 1933. The cheering fact is that so many lynchings were prevented. On 74 different occasions angry mobs gathered for the purpose of lynching somebody. And each time force or strategy on the part of public officials dispersed or held the mob in check until the danger was past. It has been the lack of a determined stand on the part of officers of the law which permitted lynching to become so common.

NEW YORK, N. Y. NEWS
JAN 20 1935

LYNCHING RECORD, 1934.

Tuskegee Institute, Ala.: I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. There were fifteen persons lynched in 1934; thirteen less than in 1933, seven more than in 1932 two more than in 1931, and six less than in 1930. Eight of the persons lynched in 1934 were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails. There were fifty-one instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, seven in Northern and Western States and forty-four in Southern States. A total of seventy-four persons — fourteen white men, fifty-seven colored men and three colored women—were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs. Of the fifteen persons lynched, all were colored. The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, one; Florida, two; Georgia, one; Kentucky, one; Louisiana, two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one; Texas, one.

R. R. MOTON,
President Tuskegee Institute.

Lynchings - 1934
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. — Dec.

4868

PAOLA, KAS., WESTERN SPIRIT
JAN. 4, 1935
J15

LYNCHINGS DOWN.

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28.—(A. P.)—Records of Tuskegee institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the nation during 1934—all Negroes—to show a decline of 13 under 28 lynchings recorded for 1933. The report showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," the report stated, "and seven of these were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern states. The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1, and Texas, 1."

LOWELL, MASS.
~~SUN~~
Telegram
JAN 27 1935

Decrease in Lynchings

According to the records of Tuskegee Institute, 15 persons, all Negroes, were lynched in the United States last year, 13 less than in 1933, but nevertheless 15 too many.

In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengeance included 14 white men, and three Negro women, the remainder being Negro men.

By states, those lynched were, six in Mississippi, two each in Louisiana and Florida, and one each in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

Offenses charged against the Negroes illegally executed were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; and one each for associating with a white woman; insulting a white woman, striking a white man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrespectfully, wounding a white man, and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

Three of those lynched were taken from jails; five were taken from officers of the law while under arrest; the others were apprehended by mobsters before being legally arrested.

In recent years the number of victims of lynch law has been greatly decreased, especially during the last decade, the smallest number being eight, in 1932.

When it is recalled that in 1892 no less than 255 persons were lynched, this frightful total including 100 white men, the decrease in the prevalence of this crime may be better realized. During the 50 years in which records have been kept, since 1885, no less than 4,189 persons have been lynched in the United States, of whom 985 were white. But lynching has remained a pastime peculiar to the South, although at times other sections have suffered great provocation through the lenient treatment of dangerous criminals in the regular legal processes.

AUBURN IND EVENING STAR
FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 1935

PREVENTED LYNCHINGS

For some years Tuskegee Institute has kept an accurate record of lynchings in the United States. Knowledge of the facts surrounding lynching is considered an important part of an intelligent effort to check this lawless American custom.

The record for 1934 was one particularly encourageing feature in addition to the fact that there were only 15 lynchings as compared with 28 in 1933. The cheering fact is that so many lynchings were prevented. On 74 different occasions angry mobs gathered for the purpose of lynching somebody. And each time force or strategy on the part of public officials dispersed or held the mob in check until the danger was past. It has been the lack of a determined stand on the part of officers of the law which permitted lynching to become so common.

TACOMA (WASH.) LEDGER
JANUARY 23, 1935

PREVENTED LYNCHINGS

For some years Tuskegee institute has kept an accurate record of lynchings in the United States. Knowledge of the facts surrounding lynching is considered an important part of any intelligent effort to check this lawless American custom.

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PARKERSBURG W VA NEWS
MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 1935

PREVENTED LYNCHINGS

For some years Tuskegee Institute has kept an accurate record of lynchings in the United States. Knowledge of the facts surrounding lynching is considered an important part of any intelligent effort to check this lawless American custom.

The record for 1934 has one particularly encouraging feature, in addition to the fact that there were only 15 lynchings as compared with 28 in 1933. The cheering fact is that so many lynchings were prevented. On 74 different occasions angry mobs gathered for the purpose of lynching somebody. And each time force or strategy on the part of public officials dispersed or held the mob in check until the danger was past. It has been the lack of a determined stand on the part of officers of the law which permitted lynching to become so common.

—Cumberland Times.

TAMAQUA PA COURIER
SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1935

PREVENTED LYNCHINGS

For some years Tuskegee Institute has kept an accurate record of lynchings in the United States. Knowledge of the facts surrounding lynching is considered an important part of any intelligent effort to check this lawless American custom.

The record for 1934 has one particularly encouraging feature, in addition to the fact that there were only 15 lynchings as compared with 28 in 1933. The cheering fact is that so many lynchings were prevented. On 74 different occasions angry mobs gathered for the purpose of lynching somebody. And each time force or strategy on the part of public officials dispersed or held the mob in check until the danger was past. It has been the lack of a determined stand on the part of officers of the law which permitted lynching to become so common.

SILSBEE, TEX, BEE
JAN. 3, 1935

FIFTEEN LYNCHINGS IN 1934

According to a letter receiv from the president of Tuskege Institute in Alabama, there were fifteen negroes [illegible] in 1934. Following is the letter:

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings fo he year 1934. I find that according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute hat there were 15 persons lynched n 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 in 1933; 7 more than he number 8 in 1932; 2 more than he number 13 for 1931; and 6 ess than the number 21 for 1930. of the persons lynched were in he hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 negro men and negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 2; murder, 2; rape, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1 writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1 Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6 Tennessee, 1; and Texas 1.

Yours very truly
R. R. Moton

PARAGOULD ARK., PRESS
JAN. 18, 1935

PREVENTED LYNCHINGS

For some years Tuskegee Institute has kept an accurate record of lynchings, in the United States. Knowledge of the facts surrounding lynching is considered an important part of any intelligent effort to check this lawless American custom.

The record for 1934 has one particularly encouraging feature, in addition to the fact that there were only 15 lynchings as compared with 28 in 1933. The cheering fact is that so many lynchings were prevented. On 74 different occasions angry mobs gathered for the purpose of lynching somebody. And each time force or strategy on the part of public officials dispersed or held the mob in check until the danger was past. It has been the lack of a determined stand on the part of officers of the law which permitted lynching to become so common.

Breeze
Hurricane, W. Va.

JAN 25 1935

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

According to the records of Tuskegee Institute, 15 persons, all Negroes, were lynched in the United States last year, 13 less than in 1933, but nevertheless 15 too many.

In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengeance included 14 white men, and three Negro women, the remainder being Negro men.

By states, those lynched were, six in Mississippi, two each in Louisiana and Florida, and one each in Alabama Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

Offenses charged against the Negroes illegally executed were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; and one each for associating with a white woman; insulting a white woman, striking a white man, writing insulting letter, talking disrespectfully, wounding a white man, and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

Three of those lynched were taken from jails; five were taken from officers of the law while under arrest; the others were apprehended by mobsters before being legally arrested.

In recent years the number of victims of lynch law has been greatly decreased, especially during the last decade, the smallest number being eight, in 1932.

When it is recalled that in 1892 no less than 255 persons were lynched, this frightful total including 100 white men, the decrease in the prevalance of this crime may be better realized. During the 50 years in which records have been kept, since 1885, no less than 4,189 persons have been lynched in the United States, of whom 985 were white.

LAMAR. COLO., NEWS
JAN. 10, 1935 J18

LYNCHING RECORD IMPROVIN

The Tuskegee Institute repor that the lynching record for th enlightened country was not qui so bad for 1934 as for 1933, thoug fifteen lynchings were indulged by Americans in the past yea Aside from the reduced number lynchings that actually took pla is the news that, of 51 attempt lynchings, 44 were prevented; in of the cases it was necessary to r sort to armed force to protect th would-be victims from the infur ated, senseless mobs. It is encou aging, also, to note that officials southern states were especially a tive and courageous in affordin protection to negroes in many i stances, an act not listed as a cu tom in that section where too ofte the officials have been part of th lawless mobs

Public opinion is turning agains lawlessness of every type just now and ynching is no exception. Hereafter those officials permitting an condoning this custom of the dar ages will, along with communities be listed as the unenlightened po tion of our citizenry. Four souther states—Arkansas, Virginia and th two Carolinas—did much to redee the good name of the South by be in free from lynchings the pas year, but Mississippi displayed un usual savagery by furnishing si out of the fourteen in the land.

Watertown, Wis., Times
FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 1935

PREVENTED LYNCHINGS

For some years Tuskegee Institute has kept an accurate record of lynchings in the United States. Knowledge of the facts surrounding lynching is considered an important part of any intelligent effort to check this lawless American custom.

The record for 1934 has one particularly encouraging feature, in addition to the fact that there were only 15 lynchings as compared with 28 in 1933. The cheering fact is that so many lynchings were prevented. On 74 different occasions angry mobs gathered for the purpose of lynching somebody. And each time force or strategy on the part of public officials dispersed or held the mob in check until the danger was past. It has been the lack of a determined stand on the part of officers of the law which permitted lynching to become so common.

MARIETTA OHIO DAILY TIMES
SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1935

Prevented Lynchings

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CHICO, CALIF.
RECORD

JAN 22 1935

Prevented Lynchings

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of public officials dispersed or held the mob in check until the danger was past. It has been the lack of a determined stand on the part of officers of the law which permitted lynchings to become so common.

WATERTOWN (WIS) TIMES
FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 1935

PREVENTED LYNCHINGS

For some years Tuskegee Institute ha kept an accurate record of lynchings in th United States. Knowledge of the facts sur rounding lynching is considered an import ant part of any intelligent effort to chec this lawless American custom.

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Little Falls, Minn., Transcript
FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 1935

PRE TED LYNCHINGS

For some years T kegee Institute has kept an accurate record of lynchings in the United States. Knowledge of the facts surrounding lynching is considered an important part of any intelligent effort to check this lawless American custom.

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Lynchings-1934
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. -Dec.

4869

EAGLE PASS (TEX.) GUIDE
JAN. 21. 1935 J29

15 LYNCHED

According to the records of Tuskegee Institute, 15 persons, all Negroes, were lynched in the United States last year, 13 less than in 1933, but nevertheless 15 too many.

In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengance included 14 white men, and three Negro women the remainder being Negro men.

By states, those lynched were, six in Mississppi, two each in Louisiana and Florida, and one each in Alabama, Georgia Kentucky Tennessee and Texas.

Offenses charged against the Negroes illegally executed were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; and one each for associating with a white woman; insulting a white woman, striking a white man, writing an insulting letter, talking desrespectfully, wounding a white man, and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

Three of those lynched were taken from jails; five were taken from officers of the law while nder arrest; the others were apprehended by mobsters before being legally arrested.

In recent years the number of victims of lynch law has been greatly decreased, especially during the last decade, the smallest number being eight, in 1932.

When it is recalled that in 1892 no less than 255 persons were lynched, this frightful total including 100 white men, the decrease in the prevalence of this crime may be better realized. During the 50 years, since 1885, no less than 4,189 persons have been lynched in the United States, of whom 985 were white.

Kalispell, Mont., Inter-Lake
SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1935

LYNCHINGS DECREASE

For some years Tuskegee Institute has kept an accurate record of lynchings in the United States. Knowledge of the facts surrounding lynching is considered an important part of any intelligent effort to check this lawless American custom.

The record for 1934 has one particularly encouraging feature, in addition to the fact that there were only 15 lynchings as compared with 28 in 1933. The cheering fact is that so many lynchings were prevented. On 74 different occasions angry mobs gathered for the purpose of lynching somebody. And each time force or strategy on the part of public officials dispersed or held the mob in check until the danger was past. It has been the lack of a determined stand on the part of officers of the law which permitted lynching to become so common.

FRANKLIN IND STAR
THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1935

15 LYNCHED IN 1934.

According to the records ~~of Tus~~kegee Institute, 15 persons, al Negroes, were lynched in the Unite States, last year, 13 less than i 1933, but nevertheleess 15 too many

In 51 instances of attempte lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carryin out their designs. Those saved from mob vengeance included 14 white men, and three Negro women, the remainder being Negro men.

By states, those lynched were, six in Mississippi, two each in Louisian and Florida, and one each in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

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In recent years the number o victims of lynch law has been greatly decreased, especially during the last decade, the smallest number being eight, in 1932.

When it is recalled that in 189 no less than 255 persons were lynched, this frightful total including 100 white men, the decrease in the prevalence of this crime may be better realized. During the 50 years in which records have been kept, since 1885, no less than 4,189 persons have been lynched in the United States, of whom 985 were white

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DESPATCH AUBURN IND
TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1935

PREVENTED LYNCHINGS

For some years Tuskegee Institute has kept an accurate record of lynchings in the United States. Knowledge of the facts surrounding lynching is considered an important part of an intelligent effort to check this lawless American custom.

The record for 1934 was one particularly encourageing feature in addition to the fact that there were only 15 lynchings as compared with 28 in 1933. The cheering fact is that so many lynchings were prevented. On 74 different occasions angry mobs gathered for the purpose of lynching somebody. And each time force or strategy on the part of public officials dispersed or held the mob in check until the danger was past. It has been the lack of a determined stand on the part of officers of the law which permitted lynching to become so common.

4869

WAYNESBORO PA RECORD HER
TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1935

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

According to the records of ~~Tus~~kegee Institute, 15 persons, all Negro~~es, were l~~ynched in the United States last year, 13 less than in 1933, but nevertheless 15 too many.

In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengeance included 14 white men, and three Negro women, the remainder being Negro men.

By states, those lynched were, six in Mississippi, two each in Louisiana and Florida, and one each in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

Offences charged against the Negroes illegally executed were Attempted rape, four; rape, two murder, two; and one each for associating with a white woman; insulting a white woman, striking a white man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrespectfully, wounding a white man, and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

Three of those lynched were taken from jails; five were taken from officers of the law while under arrest; the others were apprehended by mobsters before being legally arrested.

In recent years the number of victims of lynch law has been greatly decreased, especially during the last decade, the smallest number being eight, in 1932.

When it is recalled that in 1892 no less than 255 persons were lynched, this frightful total including 100 white men, the decrease in the prevalence of this crime may be better realized. During the 50 years in which records have been kept, since 1885, no less than 4,189 persons have been lynched in the United States, of whom 985 were white.

LAKE CHARLES LA PRESS
JAN. 25, 1935

Prevented Lynchings

For some years Tuskegee Institute has kept an accurate record ~~of lynchings in the~~ United States. Knowledge of the facts surrounding lynching is considered an important part of any intelligent effort to check this lawless American custom.

The record for 1934 has one particularly encouraging feature, in addition to the fact that there were only 15 lynchings as compared with 28 in 1933. The cheering fact is that so many lynchings were prevented. On 74 different occasions angry mobs gathered for the purpose of lynching somebody. And each time force or strategy on the part of public officials dispersed or held the mob in check until the danger was past. It has been the lack of a determined stand on the part of officers of the law which permitted lynching to become so common.

VICKSBURG MISS. HERALD
JAN. 23, 1935 126

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

According to the records of Tuskegee Institute, 15 persons, all negroes, were lynched in the United States last year, 13 less than in 1933, but nevertheless 15 too many.

In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengeance included 14 white men, and three negro women, the remainder being negro men.

By states, those lynched were, six in Mississippi, two each in Louisiana and Florida, and one each in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

Offenses charged against the negroes illegally executed were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; and one each for associating with a white woman; insulting a white woman, striking a white man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrespectfully, wounding a white man, and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

Three of those lynched were taken from jails; five were taken from officers of the law while under arrest; the others were apprehended by mobsters before being legally arrested.

In recent years the number of victims of lynch law has been greatly decreased, especially during the last decade, the smallest number being eight, in 1932.

When it is recalled that in 1892 no less than 255 persons were lynched, this frightful total including 100 white men, the decrease in the prevalence of this crime may be better realized. During the 50 years in which records have been kept, since 1885, no less than 4,189 persons have been lynched in the United States, of whom 985 were white.

FORREST CITY ARK. TIMES-HERALD (W
JAN. 21, 1935 125

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

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Offenses charged against the Negroes illegally executed were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; and one each for associating with a white woman; insulting a white woman, striking a white man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrespectfully, wounding a white man, and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

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When it is recalled that in 1892 no less than 255 persons were lynched, this frightful total including 100 white men, the decrease in the prevalence of this crime may be better realized. During the 50 years in which records have been kept, since 1885, no less than 4,189 persons have been lynched in the United States, of whom 985 were white.

PERKASIE PA CENT-NEWS Wkly
THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1935

COMMANDING RESPECT FOR LAW

AN encouraging feature of the lynching report, coming from the Tuskegee Institute, is that there were 51 instances where officers of the law prevented lynchings. Of these, seven were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern areas. There were 23 others against whom threats were made but no demonstrations were offered. That would mean a total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negroes, and three negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of the mobs.

There were 15 lynchings in the country last year, or thirteen less than in 1933, but seven more than in the year 1932, and two more than in 1931. The figures do not indicate that there has been a great deal of improvement toward permanent elimination of the crime of lynching within the past four or five years. When one takes into consideration the low classes of negroes that inhabit practically every city and town in the South, it is to be wondered at that not more heinous crimes are committed in the country, but it also indicates that the fear of the law has held in check many a one who would otherwise have permitted his passions to run rampant.

Of all persons lynched last year, seven were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails. Alabama furnished one lynching; Florida, two; Georgia, one; Kentucky, two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one; Texas, one. All of the persons were negroes.

GREENWOOD MISS., COMMONWEALTH
JAN. 24, 1935 128

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

According to the records of Tuskegee Institute, 15 persons, all negroes, were lynched in the United States last year, 13 less than in 1933, but nevertheless 15 too many.

In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengeance included 14 white men and three negro women, the remainder being negro men.

By states, those lynched were, six in Mississippi, two each in Louisiana and Florida and one each in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky Tennessee and Texas.

Offenses charged against the negroes illegally executed were: Attempted rape, four rape, two; murder, two; and one each for associating with a white woman; insulting a white woman, striking a white man; writing an insulting letter; talking disrespectfully; wounding a white man, and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

Three of those lynched were taken from jails; five were taken from officers of the law while under arrest; the others were apprehended by mobsters before being legally arrested.

In recent years the number of victims of lynch law has been greatly decreased, especially during the last decade, the smallest number being eight, in 1932.

Lynchings-1934

Reports on, Sent Press

Jan. - Dec.

4870

POINT PLEASANT, W. VA. REGISTER

JAN 3 1935

15 Lynchings In 1934

But West Virginia Respects The Law

FIFTEEN persons were lynched in the United States last year. All were Negroes. The 1934 figure is 13 less than the previous year's total when 28 persons were lynched. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and four were taken from officers of the law outside the jails. These figures are through the courtesy of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, a place for the training of Negro men and women.

A study of the causes for the fifteen lynchings is most interesting. According to the Institute, the offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootleggings it, 1.

None of the lynchings occurred in West Virginia. In most instances, the people of the New Dominion have learned to respect the law.

Literary Digest - N.Y.

JAN 12 1935

The Lynchings of 1934

Fifteen people, all Negroes, were lynched during 1934, according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute. This number is thirteen less than the number, twenty-eight, lynched in 1933; seven more than the number, eight, in 1932; two more than the number, thirteen, in 1931; and six less than the number, twenty-one, in 1930. Eight of those lynched were in the hands of the law, three of these being taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

In fifty-one instances officers of the law prevented lynchings, seven of these being in Northern and Western States, and forty-four in Southern States. In forty-six of the instances the prisoners were removed, or the guards augmented, or other precautions were taken. In the other five instances armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. Fourteen white men, fifty-seven negro men and three negro women were saved from violence.

The offenses charged against those illegally done to death were: attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; wounding man in altercation, one; association with white woman, one; striking man, one; writing insulting letter, one; talking disrespectfully, one; insulting woman, one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, one.

Mississippi led in the number of lynchings, six; Florida and Louisiana came next with two each; and one each was recorded for Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Texas.

EASTON, PA. EXPRESS

JAN 12 1935

SET-BACK FOR LYNCHING

Not the least of the public services performed by Tuskegee Institute is the keeping of an accurate record of lynchings. The report for 1934, now forthcoming, is not exactly cheering for it records fifteen examples of mob murder. But it also reveals a striking gain from 1933 when the lynchings mounted to 28. That was the worst lynching record of some time and came after a series of years in which the operations of Judge Lynch had been progressively curtailed. Thus 1933 brought a relapse; 1934 shows hopes for recovery.

Against the story of fifteen lynchings accomplished is the encouraging account of 74 instances in which mobs bent on lynching were foiled by force or strategy. Still fresh in the public memory is the case in Tennessee where sheriffs and national guardsmen stood firm against the mob's bluff, and casualties were in the gang which sought to rush the jail.

One such example of backbone in law enforcement is worth a million preachments against lynching. For the mobster is always a coward; he has no desire to be punctured by buckshot.

DETROIT, MICH. FREE PRESS

JAN 6 1935

Thirteen Less Lynchings

THE records of Tuskegee Institute show that last year only 12 Negroes were lynched in the United States, a decline of 13 from the number of lynchings in 1933, which included several white persons.

Although the recession from eight lynchings in 1932 to 28 in 1933 was deplorable it was by no means disheartening, when it was remembered that in 1892 there were 231 lynchings in this Country. Sixty-six of the victims of mob fury in that peak year of "lawless justice" were whites and 162 were Negroes. Since then there was a fairly steady annual decline in the number of such incidents to and including 1932.

An encouraging feature of the 1934 record is that in 51 instances officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seventy-four persons—14 white men, 57 Negro men and three Negro women—were thus saved from illegal execution. The recent incident at Shelbyville, Tenn., when the Governor sent in the National Guard to suppress a lynching riot, was proof enough that the local and State authorities can erase the stigma of mob murder from their communities and from the United States if and when they are disposed to do so.

WILMINGTON, DEL. JOURNAL—EVERY EVENING

JAN 4 1935

No Lynchings in Delmarva

ONCE a year the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute sends out a piece of news that interests practically everybody. It is broadcasted at the close of each year and has to do with lynchings in the United States during the preceding twelve months.

We just have received the broadcast for 1934, prepared by the department of records and research of the institute. It shows that in all this broad land of ours and with all the exasperating lawlessness that has prevailed, there were only fifteen lynchings and fifty-one instances in which lynchings were prevented by officers of the law.

Happily Delaware and the Eastern Shores of Maryland and Virginia passed through the year without a lynching. All fifteen cases were in the South, as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1, and Texas, 1. The total for 1934 is 13 lower than for 1933, in which year there were 28 lynchings.

All fifteen persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

Of the 51 instances of lynching prevention, 44 were in Southern States and 7 in Northern and Western States. The people of our city, State and Peninsula should rest well content that their home territory did not figure even remotely in the fifteen tragedies.

JAN 2 1935

COLUMBUS, O. OHIO STATE JOURNAL

The Lynching Record

Editor Ohio State Journal:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; seven more than the number eight for 1932; two more than the number 13 for 1931, and six less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from oficers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings; seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 Negro men and three Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; wounding man in altercation, one; associating with white woman, one; striking man, one; writing insulting letter, one; taking disrespectfully, one; insulting women, one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, one; Florida, two; Georgia, one; Kentucky, one; Louisiana, two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one, and Texas, one.

R. R. MOTON,

President, Tuskegee Institute.

Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

Baptist Message
Shreveport La.

JAN 10 1935

Lynchings in 1934 Below 1933 Record.

WHILE lynchings in 1934 were decidedly under the number recorded in 1933, the fact that the recurrences of these hideous mob-murders during the past year were confined entirely to the South is a source of real concern and humiliation.

According to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931, and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting woman, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred, and the number in each state, are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1, and Texas, 1.

SANFORD, FLA.
HERALD

DEC 29 1934

Lynchings, 1934

In spite of several unusually revolting lynchings dur-ng the year now coming to a close, the record for 1934 is istinctly better than for the preceding year, and on the hole shows a lessening tendency on the part of mobs to esort to lynch law.

According to figures compiled by the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, 15 persons have been lynched during the current year, or 13 less than in 1933. However, there were only 8 lynchings in 1932, and only 13 in 1931. Eight of the persons lynched this year were already in the hands of the law; of these, three were taken from jails, and five from officers outside of jails.

Revealing an increasing tendency on the part of officials to resist lynching parties, there were 51 instances during the year in which officers prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western states and 44 were in Southern states. In 46 of these cases the prisoners were removed or the guards increased. In five cases, armed force was used to repel the mobs. As a result of these 51 cases in which lynchings were prevented, the lives of 14 white men, 57 negro men, and three negro women were saved.

Of the 15 persons who were lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine, 1.

The states in which these lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee. 1: and Texas. 1.

DAYTON, O.
NEWS

DEC 31 1934

LYNCHINGS IN 1934

To the Editor of The News:

I find, according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; seven more than the number eight for 1932; two more than the number 13 for 1921, and six less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law, three were taken from jails, and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, seven of these in northern and western states, and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances, the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented, or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons—14 white men, 57 Negro men and three Negro women—were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; wounding man in alercation, one; associating with white woman, one; striking man, one; writing insulting letter, one; talking disrespectfully, one; insulting women, one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, one; Florida, two; Georgia, one; Kentucky, one; Louisiana, two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one, and Texas, one.

R. R. MOTON.

Tuskegee Institute. Ala.

OMAHA, NEB.
EVE. WORLD HERALD

JAN 2 1935

The Lynchings Thwarted.

The 1934 lynching record, as compiled at Tuskegee Institute, is not so ghastly as that of 1933 but uglier than that of 1932. Fifteen persons were lynched, all Negroes and all in southern or border states. Mississippi holds the palm for savagery with responsibility for six of the fifteen. One notes with admiration absence from the list of such thoroughly southern states as Virginia, the two Carolinas and Arkansas.

The most interesting feature of the Institute's report is the record of lynchings attempted and thwarted. There were 51 such cases, 44 of them in southern states. Seventy-four persons were saved from death at the hands of mobs, 14 of them whites and 60 Negroes. In five cases armed force was used to repel lynching mobs; in all the others protection was afforded prisoners without such necessity.

On this brighter side of the shield is revealed a record thoroughly in harmony with the awakening spirit of law enforcement and the preservation of civil peace through the orderly processes of the law. It is particularly gratifying in that it comes the year following that in which the governor of a great western state had given his indorsement to mob law in a statement so repulsive to common conscience that a president and a former president of the United States felt it incumbent upon them to reprove it.

It has seemed sometimes in the north that southern officialdom was peculiarly indifferent t mob law punishment of Negroes. These figure disprove that idea. While mobs did succeed i having their way with fifteen wretched victim five times that number were being protected b officials, conscious of their duty, faithful to the oaths and courageous and able enough to ma heir resistance effective. Their example on magnifies the shame of those who failed.

FREMONT NEB TRIBUNE
JAN. 3, 1935

THE LYNCHING RECORD

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALA.

Dec. 22—Editor, Tribune: I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934 I find according to the records compiled in the department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

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Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; stricking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1, and Texas, 1.

Robert R. Morton.

Lynchings-1934
&
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. -Dec.

4871

JACKSON, MISS., CLARION
DEC. 30, 1934 J4

Mississippi Charged With Six Lynchings During 1934

Mississippi gets some more costly and discreditable notoriety.

Tuskegee Institute, revealing the 1934 lynching figures, charges Mississippi with three times as many as any other state, with six of the 15 mob killings reported during the year.

Louisiana and Florida were charged with two each.

The charge that six lynchings were perpetrated in Mississippi this year surprises many of us. We know that not that many were reported as lynchings within the state. The Tuskegee statisticians evidently included some killings that were not counted as lynchings here.

The report reveals a better record than that of 1933 when 28 lynchings were reported, but the 1932 record was only eight.

The cheerful item in the 1934 report is the increase in the number of instances in which law officers prevented lynchings. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men, and three negro women, were saved from mobs.

The report does not reveal how many of these successful balkings of lynchings were in Mississippi, but more were prevented than were committed, and that is one good sign.

CORNING N. Y. EVE LEADER
THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 1935

PREVENTED LYNCHINGS

For some years Tuskegee Institute has kept an accurat record of lynchings in ~~the United~~ States. Knowledge of th facts surrounding lynching is considered an important part o any intelligent effort to check this lawless American custom

The record for 1934 was one particularly encouragin feature, in addition to the fact that there were only 15 lynchings as compared with 28 in 1933. The cheering fact is that so many lynchings were prevented. On 74 different occasions angry mobs gathered for the purpose of lynching somebody. And each time force or strategy on the part of public officials dispersed or held the mob in check until the danger was past. It has been the lack of a determined stand on the part of officers of the law which permitted lynching to become so common.

FORREST CITY ARK. TIMES HERALD (wk)
DEC. 29, 1934 J4

SHARP DECREASE IN LYNCHINGS IN 1934 REPORTEI

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 2 (UP) — Lynchings decrease sharply during 1934 in compariso with 1933, a report of Dr. R. R Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, revealed today.

Fifteen lynchings, all of the victims negroes, were reported t the Institute's department of records and research this year. The lynch total for 1933 was 28.

All the lawless acts occurred i Southern states, Mississippi showing the ead with six. Other were: Florida and Louisiana, tw each; Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, one each.

Fifty-one occasions where law officers prevented lynchings were reported, seven instances in Northern and Western states and 44 in the South. Alertness of the law saved 74 persons from lynch death, the report continued.

Offenses for which suspects were lynched were listed as follows:

Attempted attack, four; attack, two; murder, two; and one each for wounding a man in an altercation, associating with a white woman, striking a man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrespectfully, insulting women, implicating others in a charge of stealing and bootlegging turpentine.

Wilmington NC News

DEC 28 1934

Decrease Reportea In Lynching Case:

TUSKEGEE, ALA., Dec. 28.—(A —Records of Tuskegee institute today showed there were 15 lynching in the nation during 1934—all negroes—to show a decline of 13 under the 28 lynchings recorded fo 1933.

The report, released today b Dr. R. R. Morton, president of Tuskegee institute, showed that "eigh of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officer of the law outside of jails."

SAVANNAH, GA. NEWS

DEC 29 1934

THE ANNUAL LYNCHING RECORI

Although there were fifteen lynching 1934, compared with twenty-eight the vious year, according to figures announ y R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee stitute, the record is not one to be pr f. It had been hoped that Georgia mi come through the year with no lynchi chalked up against it. Georgia kept escutcheon untarnished during the first months, but one dark blot was cast u the tablet when autumn arrived. Oth states in which a single lynching occurred were Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas. Mississippi topped the list with six, while Florida and Louisiana each had two.

To the credit of efforts toward law enforcement in the South is the announcement that of the fifty-one instances in which officers prevented lynchings forty-four were in Southern states and seven in Northern and Western states. The supreme achievement along this line occurred recently at Shelbyville, Tenn., where state militiamen dispersed a frenzied mob bent upon lynching a negro who was being tried in a court of justice. The court house was burned by the mob, but the prisoner was safely transferred to Nashville.

JOHNSON CITY, TENN., CHRONICLE
DEC. 30, 1934 J4

Lynchings Show Drop Past Year Over 1933

TUSKEEGEE, Ala., Dec. 29.—(UP)— Lynchings decreased sharply durin 1934 in comparison with 1933, a report of Dr. R. R. Moton, pesiden of Tuskegee Institute, revealed today.

Fifteen lynchings, all of the victims negaroes, were reported to the Institute's department of records an research this year. The lynch total for 1933 was 28.

ETOWAH, TENN., ENTERPRISE
JAN. 10, 1935 J15

LYNCHINGS OVER THE UNITED STATES

Robert R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, gives the following to the press:

"I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to records compiled by Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings; 7 of these were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and 3 negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. Offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

"States in which lynching occurred and numbers are: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; Texas, 1."

HELENA ARK. WORLD
DEC. 31, 1934

LYNCHINGS SHOW DECREASE OVER ONE YEAR AGO

ANNUAL REPORT BY TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE SHOWS THAT 1934 HAD 13 LESS

In a report which is compiled annually by the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, its president, Robert R. Moton, announces that there were 13 fewer lynchings in 1934 than in 1933.

Fifteen persons were lynched in the United States in 1934, compared to 28 for 1933. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law, three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and three Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offences charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi 6; Tennessee 1; and Texas 1.

New Bedford, Mass. Times

JAN 7 1935

The Lynching Record

President Robert R. Moton of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute reports 15 lynchings in the United States during the year just ended. This is 13 fewer than for 1933, seven more than for 1932, two more than for 1931, and six fewer than for 1930. All of the persons lynched were Negroes. Mississippi made the worst showing with six lynchings, Florida and Louisiana had two each, and Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Texas, one each.

An encouraging part of the picture is found in Dr. Moton's statement that there were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings—seven in the Northern and Western, and 44 in the Southern states. In 46 of these thwarted outrages prisoners were removed or their security ensured by increased guards; in the remaining five, armed force was used to repel mobs, a total of 74 individuals being saved from lynching by one means or another.

York S.C. Enquirer

JAN 4 1935

THE LYNCHINGS OF LAST YEAR

Mississippi Had 40 Per Cent of Them and All Were In South.

According to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern states. In 46 of the instances, the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented, or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men, and three negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white women, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

NASHVILLE TENN. BANNER
DEC. 28. 1934

Fifteen Lynchings In U. S. in 1934

Decline of Thirteen From 1933 Is Noted by Tuskegee Institute in Annual Report

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28—(AP)—Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were fifteen lynchings in the nation during 1934—all Negroes—to show a decline of thirteen under the twenty-eight lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released today by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of the Tuskegee Institute, showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were fifty-one instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," President Moton's report stated, "and seven of these were in Northern and Western states and forty-four in Southern states. In forty-six of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the fifteen persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape 4; rape 2; murder 2; wounding man in altercation 1; writing insulting letter 1; talking disrespectfully 1; insulting women 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it 1.

"The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama 1; Florida 2; Georgia 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi 6; Tennessee 1; and Texas 1."

Eve.
NASHVILLE, TENN., TENNESSEAN
DEC. 29, 1934

LYNCHINGS LESSEN DURING PAST YEAR

TUSKEGEE, Ala. — (UP) — Lynchings decreased sharply during 1934 in comparison with 1933 a report of Dr. R. R. Morton, president of Tuskegee Institute, revealed today.

Fifteen lynchings, all of the victims negroes, were reported to the Institute's department of records and research this year. The lynch total for 1933 was twenty-eight.

All the lawless acts occurred in Southern states, Mississippi showing the lead with six. Others were Florida and Louisiana, two each; Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, one each.

Fifty-one occasions where law officers prevented lynchings were reported, seven instances in northern and western states and forty-four in the South. Alertness of the law saved seventy-four persons from lynch death, the report continued.

Brooklyn N.Y.
Times Union

DEC 30 1934

LYNCHINGS DECREASE

15 Colored Persons Victims of Violence in 1934.

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 29.—Lynchings decreased sharply in 1934 compared with 1933, Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, reported today.

Fifteen lynchings, all colored persons, were reported this year. The lynch total for 1933 was 28.

All occurred in Southern States Mississippi showing the lead with six. Other were: Florida and Louisiana, two each; Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Texas, one each.

Fifty-one occasions where law officers prevented lynchings were reported, seven instances in Northern and Western States and 44 in the South. Alertness of the law saved 74 persons from lynch death, the report continued.

BOSTON, MASS. TRANSCRIPT

DEC 28 1934

15 Lynched in '34, 13 Under Last Year

Mississippi Leads Dishonor Roll with 6—74 Saved from Mobs

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28 (A.P.)—Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were fifteen lynchings in the nation during 1934—all Negroes—against twenty-eight in 1933. Three of the persons lynched were taken from jails and five from officers of the laws outside of jails. There were fifty-one instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. A total of seventy-four persons, fourteen white men, fifty-seven Negro men and three Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

The offenses in the fifteen lynchings were: Attempted assault, 4; assault, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1. The States and the number in each State were: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1, and Texas, 1.

Charleston S.C.
Post

DEC 28 1934

Fifteen Lynchings Take Place in 1934

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28. (AP)—Records of Tuskegee institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the nation during 1934—all negroes—to show a decline of 13 under the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released today by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee institute, showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

"The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama 1; Florida 2; Georgia 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi 6; Tennessee 1, and Texas 1."

Lynchings-1934
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan.-Dec.

4872

BAY CITY (TEX.) TRIBUNE
JAN. 3, 1935 J12

Lynching Record For The Year 1934

Tuskegee Institute issues the following [illegible]ncerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in th department of records and researc of the Tuskegee Insitute that ther were 15 persons lynched in 1934. Thi is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933 7 more than the number 8 for 1932 2 more than the number 13 for 1931 and 6 less than the number 21 fo 1930. Eight of the persons lynche were in the hands of the law; 3 wer taken from jails and 5 from officer of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in whicl officers of the law prevented lynchings. 7 of these were in northern an western states and 44 in souther states. In 46 of th einstances the pris oners were removed or the guard augmented or other precautions tak en. In the 5' instances armed forc was used to repel the would be lynch ers. A total of 74 persons, 14 whit men; 67 negro men and 3 negro wom en were thus saved from death at th hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all wer negroes. The offenses charged were attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murde 2; wounding man in altercation, associating with white woman, striking man, 1; writing insultin letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, insulting women, 1; implicating oth ers in a charge of stealing turpentin and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings oc curred and the number in each stat are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1, an Texas 1.

NEWARK, N. J. EVE. NEWS

DEC 28 1934

Lynchings Reduced Nearly Half in 1934

TUSKEGEE, ALA.—Records compiled at the Tuskegee Institute show fifteen persons were lynched in 1934. This is thirteen less than the number for 1933; seven more than 1932; two more than 1931; and six less than 1930. Eight were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

In fifty-one instances officers of the law prevented lynchings, seven in Northern and Western states and forty-four in Southern states. Of the fifteen persons lynched all were negroes.

MIDDLESBORO. KY., NEWS
DEC. 29, 1934 J4

LYNCHING IS ON DECREASE

Tuskegee, Ala.—Lynchings decreased sharply during 1934 in comparison with 1933, a report o Dr. R. R. Moton, president o Tuskegee Institute, revealed today.

Fifteen lynchings, all of the vic tims negroes, were reported to th institute's department of record and research this year. The lync total for 1933 was 28.

All the lawless acts occurred i southern states, Mississippi showing the lead with six. Other were: Florida and Louisiana, tw each; Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, on each.

Fifty-one occasions where la officers prevented lynchings wer reported, seven instances in north ern and western states and 44 i the South. Alertness of the la saved 74 persons from lync death, the report continued.

Charleston S C News

DEC 29 1934

51 LYNCHINGS STOPPED

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28.—(AP): There were fifty-one instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings in 1934, when fifteen negroes were lynched throughout the nation.

Raleigh N C News

DEC 29 1934

FEWER LYNCHINGS FOR LAST YEAR REPORTED

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28.—(AP)—There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynching in 1934, when 15 Negroes were lynched throughout the nation.

This information was contained today in a report released by Dr R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, one of the leading Negro institutions in the country.

There were 13 fewer lynchings this year than recorded in 1933.

In the instances where officers prevented the lynchings, the report said "7 were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern states."

OWENSBORO. KY. MESSENGER
JAN. 13, 1935 J17

GAINING ON LYNCHING

Not the least of the public services performed by Tuskegee Institute is the keeping of an accurate record of lynchings. The report for 1934, now forthcoming, is not exactly cheering, for it records fifteen examples of mob murder. But it also reveals a striking gain from 1933 when the lynchings mounted to 28. That was the worst lynching record of some time and came after a series of years in which the operations of Judge Lynch had been progressively curtailed. Thus 1933 brought a relapse; 1934 shows hopes for recovery.

Against the story of fifteen lynchings accomplished is the encouraging account of 74 instances in which mobs bent on lynching were foiled by force or strategy. Still fresh in the public memory is the case in Tennessee where sheriffs and national guardsmen stood firm against the mob's bluff, and casualties were in the gang which sought to rush the jail.

One such example of backbone in law enforcement is worth a million preachments against lynching. For the mobster is always a coward; he has no desire to be punctured by buckshot.

WORCESTER, MASS. GAZETT

DEC 28 1934

CLAIM 15 NEGROES LYNCHED IN 1934

Tuskegee Institute Records Show Decline of 13 From 1933 Record

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28 (AP)—Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the nation during 1934—all Negroes—to show a decline of 13 under the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released today by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, showed "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," President Moton's report stated, "and seven of these were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern states In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guard augmented or other precaution taken. A total of 74 persons, 1 white men, 57 Negro men and three Negro women, were thu saved from death at the hands o mobs.

"Of the 15 persons lynched, al were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted assault, 4; assault, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

"The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama. 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee. 1. and Texas. 1."

NEW YORK, N. Y. TIMES

DEC 30 1934

FEWER LYNCHINGS IN 1934

Mobs Killed 15 Negroes This Year —Officers Saved 74 Persons.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 29 (AP).—Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were fifteen lynchings of Negroes in the nation during 1934, a decline of thirteen from 1933, when several of those lynched were white.

The report showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were fifty-one instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," the report stated, "and seven of these were in Northern and Western States and forty-four in Southern States. In forty-six of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total of seventy-four persons, fourteen white men, fifty-seven Negro men and three Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"The States in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama one, Florida two, Georgia one, Kentucky one, Louisiana two, Mississippi six, Tennessee one and Texas one."

West Point Ga News

JAN 3 1935

Lynchings In 1934 Fewer Than 1933

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. 8 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

The states in which lynching occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1, and Texas 1

Columbia S.C. Record

DEC 28 1934

Lynchings Decline

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28.—(AP)—Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the nation during 1934—all negroes—to show a decline of 13 under the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released today by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," President Moton's report stated.

Tarboro N.C. Daily Southerner

JAN 4 1935

FIFTEEN NEGROES LYNCHED IN 1934

Tuskegee, Ala., Jan. 4.—A total of fifteen Negro lynchings took place in the United States during 1934 records kept at Tuskegee institute here revealed. The number was thirteen less than the year's total for 1933.

In fifty-one cases during 1934, authorities prevented lynchings, according to the survey.

Of the fifteen lynched, eight were taken from the law—three from jails, and five from officers outside jails.

The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number: Alabama 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee. 1: Texas. 1.

WATERTOWN WIS TIMES
Friday, January 18, 1935

PREVENTED LYNCHINGS

For some years Tuskegee Institute has kept an accurate record of lynchings in the United States. Knowledge of the facts surrounding lynching is considered an important part of any intelligent effort to check this lawless American custom.

The record for 1934 has one particularly encouraging feature, in addition to the fact that there were only 15 lynchings as compared with 28 in 1933. The cheering fact is that so many lynchings were prevented. On 74 different occasions angry mobs gathered for the purpose of lynching somebody. And each time force or strategy on the part of public officials dispersed or held the mob in check until the danger was past. It has been the lack of a determined stand on the part of officers of the law which permitted lynching to become so common.

Minden, La. Tribune
January 15, 1935

TUSKEGEE REPORT ON LYNCHINGS

Fifteen Lynchings in Eight Southern States In 1934

The following letter formed a news release from Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, famous negro educational center in Alabama, pertaining to lynchings in the year 1934.

Dear Sir:

"I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 in 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. 8 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from oficers of the law outside of the jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 7 of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions used. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegigng it, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Flordia, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

Yours very truly,
R. R. Moton
President.

YPSILANTI MICH PRESS
Saturday, January 19, 1935

PREVENTED LYNCHINGS

For some years Tuskegee Institute has kept an accurate record of lynchings in the United States. Knowledge of the facts surrounding lynching is considered an important part of any intelligent effort to check this lawless American custom.

The record for 1934 has one particularly encouraging feature, in addition to the fact that there were only 15 lynchings as compared with 28 in 1933. The cheering fact is that so many lynchings were prevented. On 74 different occasions angry mobs gathered for the purpose of lynching somebody. And each time force or strategy on the part of public officials dispersed or held the mob in check until the danger was past.

It has been the lack of a determined stand on the part of officers of the law, it would seem then, that has permitted lynching to become so common.

Lawrenceburg, Tenn., News
January 24, 1935

15 Lynched In 1934

According to the records of Tuskegee Institute, 15 persons, all Negroes were lynched in the United States last year, 13 less than in 1933, but nevertheless 15 too many.

In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengeance included 14 white men, and three Negro women, the remainder being Negro men.

By states, those lynched were, six in Mississippi, two each in Louisiana and Florida, and one each in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

Offenses charged against the Negroes illegally executed were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; and one each for associating with a white woman; insulting a white woman, striking a white man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrespectfully, wounding a white man, and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

Three of those lynched were taken from jails; five were taken from officers of the law while under arrest; the others were apprehended by mobsters before legally arrested.

In recent years the number of victims of lynch law has been greatly decreased, especially during the last decade, the smallest number being eight, in 1932.

When it is recalled that in 1892 no less than 255 persons were lynched, this frightful total including 100 white men, the decrease in the prevalence of this crime may be better realized. During the 50 years in which records have been kept, since 1885, no less than 4,189 persons have been lynched in the United States, of whom 985 were white.

Lynchings - 1934
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan-Dec.

4876

HERALD
Yazoo City, Miss.
FEB 5 1935

FIFTEEN LYNCHED IN 1934

According to the records of Tuskegee Institute, fifteen persons, all negroes, were lynched in the United States last year, thirteen less than in 1933, but nevertheless fifteen too many.

In fifty-one instances of attempted lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengeance included fourteen white men, and three negro women, the remainder being negro men.

By states, those lynched were: six in Mississippi, two each in Louisiana and Florida, and one each in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

Offenses charges against the negroes illegally executed were: attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; and one each for associating with a white woman, insulting a white woman, striking a white man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrespectfully, wounding a white man, and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

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Review
Belfield, N.D.
FEB 8 1935

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

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ROCK ISLAND, ILL.
ARGUS
FEB 19 1935

Fewer Lynchings.

According to Robert R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial institute, there were but 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number, 28, for 1933; seven more than in 1932, two more than in 1931, and six less than in 1930. Eight of the 15 lynched in 1934 were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of prisons.

There were 51 instances, Mr. Moton says, in which officers prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented, or other precautions taken. In the five other instances armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and three negro women were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, four; murder, two; wounding man in altercation, one; associating with white women, one; striking man, one; insulting letter, one; talk- ng disrespectfully, one; insulting women, one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, one.

Lynchings took place, as to location as follows: Alabama, one; Florida, two; Georgia, one; Kentucky, one; Louisiana, two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one, and Texas, one.

Lynchings-1934
&
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan, -Dec.

4877

ROCHESTER, N. Y.
DEMOCRAT & CHRONICLE

DEC 31 1934

Lynchings in 1934 Were Less by 13 Than in 1933

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insuling women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentin and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Albama, 1; Florida 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1 and Texas, 1.

R. R. MOTON,
President.

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

Carthage, N. C., News
January 3, 1935

THE LYNCHING RECORD

To the editor of The News:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; seven more than the number eight for 1932; two more than the number 13 for 1931; and six less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 negro men and three negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; wounding man in altercation, one; associating with white woman, one; striking man, one; writing insulting letter, one; talking disrespectfully, one; insulting women, one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, one; Florida, two; Georgia, one; Kentucky, one; Louisiana, two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one; and Texas, one.

R. R. MOTON.
Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

Wilmington, N. C. Morning Star
December 29, 1934

15 Negroes Lynched In Nation This Year

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28.—(AP)—There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings in 1934, when 15 negroes were lynched throughout the nation.

This information was contained today in a report released by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee institute, one of the leading negro institutions of the country.

There were 13 fewer lynchings this year than recorded for 1933.

In the instances where officers prevented the lynchings, the report said "7 were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states."

The states where the lynchings occurred and the number in each state: Alabama 1; Florida 2; Georgia 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana 2. Mississippi 6; Tennessee 1 and Texas 1.

New York Evening Post

JAN 2 1935

Lynching in 1934

The annual report on lynching made by Tuskegee Institute throws important light on this gruesome subject.

Fifteen persons—all Negroes—were lynched in the United States during 1934. But 51 persons were saved from lynch mobs by officers.

This indicates how the lynching problem will eventually be overcome—by more courageous resistance like that of the militia at Shelbyville, Tenn., and less of the disgusting, complacence that marked the official attitude toward the "invitation" lynching at Marianna, Fla.

Better even than bullets is the knowledge that officials are prepared to shoot would-be lynchers if necessary. Recently, a Negro was arrested in Frederick, Md., for attack on a little white girl.

He was sent to Baltimore for safe-keeping and returned to face trial only after the court had made clear its intention of protecting him from violence at any cost.

Within six weeks from the date of the crime the man had been convicted and sentenced. More of this firmness from authorities may some day make the sad New Year's reminder from Tuskegee unnecessary.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
RECORD

JAN 2 1935

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Chattanooga, Tenn.
TIMES

JAN 1 1935

THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR 1934.

As against twenty-eight lynchings in 1933, there were only fifteen mob murders last year, according to figures made public by the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Normal Institute, as of Dec. 22 This indicates a gratifying trend but there still remains much room for improvement. While the record for last year is far below that for the preceding year, it is higher than that for 1932, in which there were only eight mob executions. And there were eight too many lynchings in 1932.

One of the most gratifying things about the record for last year is the large number of instances in which officers of the law prevented mobs from taking accused persons and the law into their own hands. There were fifty-one such instances—seven in Northern and Western States and forty-four in Southern States. Of the fifteen persons lynched last year, only eight were taken away from officers. In three of these cases, the victims were taken out of jails. The fact that officers prevented the lynching of fifty-one out of fifty-nine persons whom mobs sought to wrest from them is impressive proof of the fact that officers of the law can prevent the seizing and murdering of prisoners, if they have the wit, courage and disposition to do so.

Of the fifteen persons lynched in 1934, all were Negroes, according to the Tuskegee report, which continues: "The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1." In the light of the foregoing figures, what about efforts to justify lynching as an institution for the protection of white womanhood?

Following are the States which were disgraced by mob executions last year: Alabama, 1; Florida 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee 1; Texas, 1. It would be an indication of marked progress if every State should come to the close of 1935 without the blot of a lynching on its name.

RECORD OF LYNCHING FOR 1934

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama
Office of the President,
December 28, 1934.

Editor, The Africo-American Presbyterian:

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934.

I find according to the records in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eght of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57

Africo-American Presbyterian
1-3-35
Charlotte, N.C.

Negro men and 3 Negro women were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

Yours very truly,
R. R. MOTON,
President.

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15 Lynched In 1934

Recorder
1-5-35

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The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

Tuskegee Says 15!
N. A. A. C. P. Says 16!

The Union
1-3-35

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CRIME AND DISASTER

By ROBERT R. MOTON,
President of Tuskegee Institute.

I SEND you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find, according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, that there were fifteen persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the

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number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931, and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were fifty-one instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the fifteen persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1, and Texas, 1.

Dec. 12—At the Attorney General's Crime Conference in Washington, Assistant Attorney General Kennan limits the activities of the Department of Justice's agents to the suppression of interstate crimes.

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15 Negroes Lynched In '34, Says Tuskegee President In Report

Age
1-5-35
New York
N.Y.

TUSKEGEE, Ala. — Fifteen persons were lynched during the year 1934 according to a compilation made by the Department of Records of Tuskegee Institute and released by Dr. Robert R. Moton, president of the institute.

"This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933"; the letter says in part "seven more than the number eight for 1932; two more than the number 13 for 1931, and six less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law, three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of the jails."

In 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynching the report state 44 took place in the south, and seven in the north and west. In five cases, Armed force was used for repelling would-be lynchers. Three Negro women are among those saved from mob violence.

All of the fifteen persons lynched were Negroes, the charged offenses being as follows:

Attempted Rape	4
Rape	2
Murder	2
Wounding Man in Quarrel	1
Association with White Woman	1
Striking Man	1
Writing Insulting Letter	1
Talking Disrespectfully	1
Insulting Women	1
Implicating Others in Charge of Stealing And Bootlegging Turpentine	1
Total	15

"The states in which lynching occurred and the number in each state," the report concludes, "are: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Missisippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.'

WATERTOWN, N. Y.
TIMES
DEC 31 1934

Lynching During 1934.

To The Times:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; seven more than the number eight for 1932; two more than the number 13 for 1931; and six less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

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The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, one; Florida, two; Georgia, one; Kentucky, one; Louisiana, two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one and Texas, one.

Robert R. Moton, President, Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute.
Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 22. 1934.

Harriman, Tenn. Record
January 3, 1935

Records Show 15 Persons Lynched During Year 1934

According to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskee Institute, there were fifteen persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

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Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape 4; rape 2; murder 2; wounding man in altercation 1; writing insulting letter 1; talking disrespectfully 1; insulting woman 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it 1.

The states in which lynching occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama 1; Florida 2; Georgia 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi 6; Tennessee 1; and Texas 1.

Jan. -Dec.

4878

Lynchings-1934
Reports on, Sent Press.

U. S. LYNCHED 15 LAST YEAR, SAYS MOTON

Call

Tuskegee Records Reveal 13 Fewer Persons Were Mobbed in '34

TUSKEGEE, Ala. — The records of Tuskegee institute show that there were 15 lynchings in the United States in 1934, according to President R. R. Moton this week. Tuskegee institute investigates every lynching that occurs throughout the country.

1-4-35

This number is 13 fewer than the 28 recorded in 1933; seven more than the eight lynchings in 1932; two more than the number 13 for 1931 and six fewer than the number 21 for 1930.

Dr. Moton's report follows:

"There were [illegible] instances in which officers of the law [illegible] lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precaution taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and three Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; wounding men in altercation, one; associating with white woman, one; striking man, one; writing insulting letter, one; talking disrespectfully, one; insulting women, one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, one.

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state, are as follows: Alabama, one; Florida, two; Georgia, one; Kentucky, one; Louisiana, two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one; and Texas, one.

"Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

Lafayette, Ala., Sun
January 2, 1935

Number of Lynchings Show Decrease 1934

Tuskegee.—Records of Tuskegee Institute show there were 15 lynchings in the nation during 1934, all negroes, to show a decline of 13 under 28 the record for 1933.

The report showed 8 of those lynched were in the hands of the law, 3 being taken from jails and 5 from officers outside of jails.

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," President R. R. Morton's report stated.

Lynchings by states were:

Alabama 1.
Florida 2.
Georgia 1.
Kentucky 1.
Louisiana 2.
Mississippi 6.
Tennesse 1.
Texas 1

Wadesboro, N. C., Messenger & Int.
January 3, 1935

ALERTNESS OF LAW PREVENTS LYNCHINGS

Fifteen Negroes Met Violent Deaths at Hands of Mobs in 1934.

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 29.—Lynchings decreased sharply during 1934 in comparison with 1933 a report of Dr. R. R Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, revealed today.

Fifteen lynchings, all of the victims negroes, were reported to the institute's department of records and research this year. The lynch total for 1933 was 28.

All the lawless acts occurred in southern states, Mississippi showing the lead with six. Others were: Florida and Louisiana, two each; Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, anl Texas, one each.

Fifty-one occasions where law officers prevented lynchings were reported, seven instances in northern and western states and 44 in the south. Alertness of the law saved 74 persons from lynch death, the report continued.

Offenses for which suspects were lynched were listed as follows:

Attempted attack, four; attack, two; murder, two, and one each for wounding a man in an altercation, associating with a white woman, striking a man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrespectfully, insulting women, implicating others in a charge of stealing and bootlegging turpentine.

TROY, N. Y.
EVENING RECORD

DEC 31 1934

Lynchings During Year.

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama,
December 29, 1934.

Editor of The Troy Times:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find, according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; seven more than the number eight for 1932; two more than the number 13 for 1931, and six less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

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Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, four. rape, two; murder, two; wounding man n altercation. one: associating with white woman, one; striking man, one; writing insulting letter, one; talking disrespectfully, one. insulting women, one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, one.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, one; Florida, two; Georgia, one; Kentucky, one; Louisiana, two; Mississippi, six. Tennessee, one, and Texas, one.

Yours very truly,
R. R. MOTON,
President.

KNOXVILLE, TENN.
JOURNAL

DEC 29 1934

THIS YEAR SAW 15 LYNCHINGS

All of Victims Were Negroes; Less Than in 1933.

Fifteen persons, all Negroes, were lynched in the United States in 1934, according to records compiled by Tuskegee Normal and Industrial institution for Negroes and released yesterday.

The lynchings occurred in the following eight Southern states, according to the Tuskegee report:

Tennessee, one; Alabama, one; Kentucky one; Georgia, one; Louisiana, two; Florida, two; Texas, one, and Mississippi, six.

LESS THAN 1933

The lynchings in 1934 were 13 less than in 1933, seven more than in 1932, two more than in 1931, and six less than in 1930, the report stated, continuing in part:

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in Southern states.

"In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers.

74 ARE SAVED

"A total of 74 persons—14 white men, 57 Negro men and three Negro women—were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs."

The report lists the following reasons for the 15 lynchings in 1934

Attempted statutory offense, four statutory offense, two; murder, two wounding man in altercation, one associating with white woman, one striking man, one; writing insulting letter, one; talking disrespectfully, one; insulting woman, one; implicating others in a charge of stealin turpentine and bootlegging, one.

LYNCHBURG, VA.
NEWS

DEC 30 1934

THE YEAR'S LYNCHING RECOR

To The Editor of The News:

Sir: I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were fifteen persons lynched in 1934. This is thirteen less than the number 28 for 1933; seven more than the number eight for 1932; two more than the number thirteen for 1931; and six less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

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R. R. MOTON.

Tuskegee, Ala., De[illegible]ber 29, 1934

NORFOLK, VA.
VIRGINIAN PILOT

DEC 30 1934

Rope and Fagot In 1934

The South has witnessed—to its humiliation—some horrible lynchings during 1934. It has seen men murdered by mobs for such reasons as talking disrespectfully; for striking a man (but not seriously injuring him); for writing an insulting letter; for wounding a man in an altercation. It has had to look at a lynching on the border of Florida and Alabama which a whole country-side knew was planned; and it has stood by while the Shelbyville mob, defeated in its attempts to murder a prisoner, burned down the courthouse from which he had been rescued by National Guard troops. But in the total number of lynchings in 1934, the South has a better record than in any of the 16 years since the World War, with three exceptions. The number was 15 (according to the Tuskegee Institute), all the victims Negroes, and all, save one in Tennessee and one in Kentucky, the victims of mobs in the Deep South States which extend from Florida to Texas. Nobody was lynched in the other 40 States.

The comparison with other years is made without pride. Fifteen lynchings are 15 more than would be permitted in civilized States where racial hatred was not a powerful factor. But the record does suggest that the 28 lynchings of 1933 represented an abnormal jump in the chart. We have come down in 1934 closer to the 8 lynchings of 1932, the 13 of 1931, the 10 of 1929 and the 11 of 1928, which, if averaged, would probably indicate the more or less normal number to be expected in the present state of progress toward the eradication of this indefensible crime.

Certain encouragements may be taken from such figures. But the gaps in our knowledge of the subject are still enormous. Why, after only 8 lynchings in 1932, did the number rise, to 28 in 1933? Why, after 28 in 1933, did it fall to 15 in 1934? It is possible to assert confidently that the steady pressure of a number of influences has radically improved the picture in the past 15 years. Immediately after the war an annual toll of 50, 60 and even 80 lynchings was standard. Now the average is from 50 to 75 per cent less, or in a relatively good year, even more. This major gain is clear. But it still leaves unexplained the disproportionate increases and decreases which mark even the improved record; and, more importantly, it still leaves obscurely indicated the best approaches to the problem of reducing the average of 10 to 15 lynchings a year which for nearly a decade now has been the normal expectancy.

Macon, Ga. News
January 5, 1935

Better Lynching Record

In spite of the sensational circumstances surrounding the lynchings which took place last year, 1934 made a much better record in that respect than did the previous year, although not as good as was made in the years 1931 and 1932.

There were 15 lynchings in the country last year, or 13 less than in the year 1933, but 7 more than in the year 1932 and 2 more than in the year 1931. The figures do not indicate that there has been a great deal of improvement towards the permanent elimination of this crime within the past few years, we are sorry to say.

Of the persons lynched last year, seven were in the hands of the law, three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails. According to the record, all of the persons lynched were Negroes.

Tuskegee Institute, which compiles the figures, sees an encouraging feature in the fact that there were 51 instancs where officers of the law were willing and able to prevent lynchings. Of these, seven were in the northern and western states and 44 in southern states. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 Negro men and three negro women were saved from death at the hands of a mob.

The number of lynchings in Georgia was one, as was also the case in Texas, Tennessee, and Kentucky. In Florida there were two, in Louisiana two, and in Missisisppi six. There is something, indeed, encouraging in the fact that so many prisoners, threatened with lynchings, have been saved by officers of the law, but there must be an end to such outrages as that in Florida, where invitations were extended to witness the execution and the victim was tortured to death. The necessary moral is that unless the states put an end to this thing the federal government will do so, and it is highly probably, in any circumstances, that a federal anti-lynching law will be passed by the present congress.

KNOXVILLE, TENN
JOURNAL

Fifteen Lynchings

Dr. Moton, President of Tuskeegee, has made his annual report of the passing year's record for lynchings.

The facts are presented without comment.

Fifteen persons have been put to death in brutal fashion and without trial in the course of the year now coming to an end, and all in the Southern states. All were Negroes.

The record lists the crimes and offenses by which supposedly civilized men have been stirred to such blood-lust and savagery as could not wait for proof or trial, so uncontrollable the brutish impatience for vengeance and death.

These were the crimes of which the untried and defenseless victims were accused, with but two in all the list definitely set down as cases of the only crime for which mob violence asks excuse:

Attempted statutory offense, four; statutory offense, two; murder, two; wounding man in altercation, one; associating with white woman, one; striking man, one; writing insulting letter, one; talking disrespectfully, one; insulting woman, one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging, one.

Yet, but for President Roosevelt himself, the unspeakable horror of lynching would not have been brought up in the recent Conference on Crime Prevention, even with all its discussions of the criminal deeds which are debasing our whole land.

That there were fewer lynchings, by thirteen, in 1934 than in 1933 might be taken as something by way of hope were it not for the fact that our latest record is greater by seven than that of 1932, and by two than that of 1931. The record is not so much progressive as it is merely variable.

The one hopeful chapter of the story is that which makes record of the 74 suspected and intended victims of lynchings that were saved from the fury of mob law by the courage and resourcefulness of their guards, or by the intervention of armed force.

This however, is of problematic significance since the mob spirit that forced these rescues suffered after all no more than physical defeat, and that but in part.

The mob so far, whether successful or foiled in its madness, has suffered no punishment.

No individual leader of a lynching mob has been hanged for murder or imprisoned.

No infuriated man who has put the noose about the victim's neck, or who has applied the fire that fiendishly tortured him, has paid any penalty for being himself a lawbreaker and a murderer.

The outlawing of this shameful custom needs more than defensive measures in the victims behalf, or protection for the community menaced by the mob.

It needs a warning, made good by actual example, that direful and tragic punishment must fall on those who by the crime of lynching bring into shame many people other than themselves and lower the standards of self-respect and decency in every community which submits to the implications they put upon

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FORT WAYNE, IND.
JOURNAL GAZETTE

JAN 4 [illegible]

Lynching in 1934

Public sentiment against lynching seems to be growing in the United States.

The annual report made by Tuskegee institute shows that only 15 persons were lynched in the United States during 1934. It also reveals that 51 persons were saved from lynch mobs by officers of the law.

There was a time when the officers would not stand out against the will of the mob, but in 1934 the officials seem on the whole to have made a good showing.

President Roosevelt helped the cause of law and order during the year with his vigorous pronouncement against mob violence.

If the courts and juries of the land will now do their duty organized mobs will be less prone to take the law into their own hands.

Lynchings - 1934
Reports on, Sent. Press.

Jan. - Dec.

4879

HAVERHILL, MASS.
EVE. GAZETTE

JAN 5 1935

15 Lynchings In 1934

To the Editor of The Gazette:—I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside the jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1;

The states in which lynching occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

(Signed) R. R. MOTON
President.
Tuskegee Institute.

Kingstree, S. C., Record
January 3, 1935

Lynchings for 1934 Announced.

According to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

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DURHAM, N. C.
SUN
DEC 29 1934

Figures from Tuskegee Institute indicate that 1934 dropped back to what might be called a "normal" for lynchings. Fifteen were mob victims during the year now closing. That total is 13 less than for the mob fatalities of 1933. However, 1933 was a passion year. The 15 of this year represent seven more than the eight recorded for 1932 and two more than the 13 on record for 1931. In 1930 the number was higher, being 21.

None of this year's lynchings occurred in North Carolina. Durham had great provocation the other day when the Negro Currie shot Claiborne Bland. Solicitor Carr moved the Negro to Raleigh, it is true, but by that time the danger had passed. Many in Durham had turned the matter over in their minds but discarded it, leaving the case to the courts.

Durham hopes it will always be that way. The law is either the law or it is nothing. The courts themselves can help. Prompt and adequate enforcement is vital. If the courts will not respect the laws by invoking them, they should not be surprised if the public should come to hold the law in little regard.

Springfield, Tenn. Herald
January 10, 1935

15 LYNCHED IN '34; NUMBER IS 13 LESS THAN 1933 REPORT

Fifteen lynchings were recorded in the United States during 1934 by the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute of Tuskegee, Ala., this being 13 less than during the previous year.

The number was 7 more than in 1932; 2 more than in 1931; and 6 less than in 1930. All fifteen were Negroes.

Dr. Robert R. Moton, president of Tuskegee, in making the report cited 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, 7 of these being in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States.

The 15 lynched were charged with: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectively, 1; insulting woman, 1; implicating others in charge of stealing, 1. The lynchings occurred in the following states: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; Texas, 1.

Blakely Ga News

JAN 3 - 1935

DECREASE SHOWN IN LYNCHINGS IN U. S. IN YEAR 1934

13 LESS THAN IN 1933, BUT SEVEN MORE THAN IN 1932

According to records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala., there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. 8 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

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The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Texas, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1.

Lake City, S. C., News
January 3, 1935

Lynchings for 1934 Announced.

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4879

Dalton Ga
Citizen

JAN 3 - 1935

Nothing to Boast About

President R. R. Moton, of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, sends The Citizen details and figures concerning the lynching record of the country during the year 1934. It does not speak so well for the south, for the simple reason that all the lynchings occurred in this section.

We are improving slowly, but when we show improvement for one year, we are liable to slip back the next. Georgia, however, has only one lynching for the year 1934, but that is one too many. Mississippi comes forward with six, and that is six too many. In a state where there is civilization and law enforcement, there is no sensible excuse for lynching. Lynching is nothing more than mob-madness, and mob-madness is anarchy.

We quote Dr. Moton's lynching release as of December 28, 1934:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that thert were fifteen persons lynched in 1934. This is thirteen less than the number twenty-eight for 1933; seven more than the number eight for 1932; two more than the number thirteen for 1931; and six less than the number twenty-one for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were fifty-one instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and forty-four in southern states. In forty-six of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of seventy-four persons, fourteen white men; fifty-seven Negro men and three Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the fifteen persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder two; wounding man in altercation, one; associating with white woman, one; striking man, one; writing insulting letter, one; talking disrespectfully, one; insulting women, one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, one; Florida, two; Georgia, one; Kentucky, one; Louisiana, two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one; and Texas, one.

Newberry, S. C. Observer
January 4, 1935

Lynching Facts For Year 193

Editor The Observer:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for th year 1934. I find according to th records compiled in the departmen of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that, there were 1 persons lynched in 1934. This is 1 less than the number 28 for 1933; seven more than the number eight for 1932; two more than the number 13 for 1931, and six less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of he law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 negro men and three negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tenessee, 1, and Texas, 1.

Yours very truly,
R. R. Morton, Pres.
Tuskee, Institute, Ala.,
December 22, 1934.

JACKSON, MISS.
NEWS

DEC 30 1934

DR. MOTON REPORTS LYNCHINGS IN 1934

Total of 15 Much Below The Record Made In Previous Years

Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, reports that a compilation at that institution shows 15 persons lynched in the United States during 1934, which is 13 less than the number lynched during 1933, 7 more than the number for 1932, two more than the number for 1931 and 6 less than the number for 1930.

Of the 15 persons lynched eight were in the hands of officers of the law, three were taken from jails, and five from officers outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynching. Seven of these were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 negro men and 3 negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associated with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

Villa Rica, Ga., Breeze
January 17, 1935

15 Lynchings During Year

Tuskegee, Ala.—Records of Tuskegee Institute showed that there we 15 lynchings in the nation during 1932, all of whom were negroes, t show a decline of 13 under the 2 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report showed that eight of those lynched were in the hands of the law, three being taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," President R. R. Moton's report stated.

The lynchings by states were Alabama 1; Florida 2; Georgia 1; Kentucky 1; Louisana 2; Mississippi 6; Tennessee 1 and Texas 1.

St. Matthews, S. C., Times
January 10, 1935

LYNCHINGS

In 1934 there were 15 persons lynched. Four for attempting rape; rape 2; murder 2; wounding man in fight 2; associating with white woman, 1; insulting woman, 1; stealing, 1.

Mississippi, the highest, disposed of 6. South Carolina had none.

OMAHA, NEB.
MORNING WORLD HERALD

JAN 2 1935

The Lynchings Thwarted.

The 1934 lynching record, as compiled at Tuskegee Institute, is not so ghastly as that of 1933 but uglier than that of 1932. Fifteen persons were lynched, all Negroes and all in southern or border states. Mississippi holds the palm for savagery with responsibility for six of the fifteen. One notes with admiration absence from the list of such thoroughly southern states as Virginia, the two Carolinas and Arkansas.

The most interesting feature of the Institute's report is the record of lynchings attempted and thwarted. There were 51 such cases, 44 of them in southern states. Seventy-four persons were saved from death at the hands of mobs, 14 of them whites and 60 Negroes. In five cases armed force was used to repel lynching mobs; in all the others protection was afforded prisoners without such necessity.

On this brighter side of the shield is revealed a record thoroughly in harmony with the awakening spirit of law enforcement and the preservation of civil peace through the orderly processes of the law. It is particularly gratifying in that it comes the year following that in which the governof of a great western state had given his indorsement to mob law in a statement so repulsive to common conscience that a president and a former president of the United States felt it incumbent upon them to reprove it.

It has seemed sometimes in the north that southern officialdom was peculiarly indifferent to mob law punishment of Negroes. These figures disprove that idea. While mobs did succeed in having their way with fifteen wretched victims five times that number were being protected by officials, conscious of their duty, faithful to their oaths and courageous and able enough to make their resistance effective. Their example only magnifies the shame of those who failed.

In this record of 1934 there is occasion for hope, for the restoration of confidence in the efficacy of local self-government.

Jan.—Dec.

Lynchings—1934

Reports on. Sent Press.

4880

[illegible] ENTERPRISE COUR
JAN. 3, 1935 J11

15 Lynchings Listed In 1934

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28.—Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the nation during 1934, all Negroes, a decline of 13 from the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released today by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails. There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," President Moton's report stated, "and seven of these were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern states." The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are: Alabama 1, Florida 2, Georgia 1, Kentucky 1, Louisiana 2, Mississippi 5, Missouri 1, Tennessee 1 and Texas 1.

COLUMBUS, O.
DISPATCH

DEC 30 1934

LYNCHINGS INCREASE

A Total of 74 Saved from Mob Violence by Protection of Legal Forces

To the Editor of The Dispatch:

Sir: I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; seven more than the number eight for 1932; two more than the number 13 for 1931, and six less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails, and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and three Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; wounding man in altercation, one; associating with white woman, one; striking man, one; writing insulting letter, one; talking disrespectfully, one; insulting women, one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, one; Florida, two; Georgia, one; Kentucky, one; Louisiana, two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one, and Texas, one. Yours very truly,

R. R. Morton, president,
Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute,
Alabama.

Monroe Ga.
Enquirer

DEC 31 1934

AL[illegible]NESS OF LAW PREVENTS LYNCHINGS

Fifteen Negroes Met Violent Deaths at Hands of Mobs in 1934.

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 29.—Lynchings decreased sharply during 1934 in comparison with 1933 a report of Dr. R. R Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute revealed today.

Fifteen lynchings, all of the victims negroes, were reported to the institute's department of records and research this year. The lynch total for 1933 was 28.

All the lawless acts occurred in southern states, Mississippi showing the lead with six. Others were: Florida and Louisiana, two each; Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Texas, one each.

Fifty-one occasions where law officers prevented lynchings were reported, seven instances in northern and western states and 44 in the south. Alertness of the law saved 74 persons from lynch death, the report continued.

Offenses for which suspects were lynched were listed as follows:

Attempted attack, four; attack, two; murder, two, and one each for wounding a man in an altercation, associating with a white woman, striking a man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrespectfully, insulting women, implicating others in a charge of stealing and bootlegging turpentine.

New Bedford, Mass.
TIMES
JAN 7 [illegible]

The Lynching Record

President Robert R. Moton of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute reports 15 lynchings in the United States during the year just ended. This is 13 fewer than for 1933, seven more than for 1932, two more than for 1931, and six fewer than for 1930. All of the persons lynched were Negroes. Mississippi made the worst showing with six lynchings, Florida and Louisiana had two each, and Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, one each.

An encouraging part of the picture is found in Dr. Moton's statement that there were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings—seven in the Northern and Western, and 44 in the Southern states. In 46 of these thwarted outrages prisoners were removed or their security ensured by increased guards; in the remaining five, armed force was used to repel mobs, a total of 74 individuals being saved from lynching by one means or another.

[illegible] SPGS (COLO) WKLY GAZETTE
JAN. 3, 1935 J11

FEWER [illegible]HINGS

[illegible]uskegee i[illegible]te reports a total of 15 lynchings in 1934, 13 less than in 1933, but seven more than in 1932 and two more than in 1931. Eight of the 15 persons lynched were in the hands of the law, three being taken from jails and five from officers outside of jails. Against this record, however, there were 51 instances reported in which officers prevented lynchings, thus saving 74 persons from death at the hands of mobs. Seven of these cases were in the north; 44 in the south.

But if the south's records in the prevention of lynchings was good, it also accounted for all 15 cases of mob action. There was not a lynching in a northern or western state. Too, all 15 victims were negroes.

The fact that there ever is resort to mob action may be deprecated, tho it is to be expected in new countries and in countries where there are strong racial conflicts, but there is some satisfaction to be found in the 1934 record. Lynch law is not so lightly invoked as before, an it appears for the most part only in extreme cases.

BOSTON, MASS. POST
JAN 4 - 1935

THE LYNCHING RECORD

Major R. R. Moton of the Tuskegee Institutes, still follows the course laid down by Booker T. Washington, in reporting the known lynchings of the country. This year he finds that 15 persons were thus illegally killed; but this is a great improvement over the 1933 record when 28 lynchings occurred.

It might be said, too, that 74 persons, 14 of them white, 57 colored men and three colored women were saved from the fury of the mobs by exhibitions of force or strategy. This is facing in the right direction, and it suggests that before many years the crime of lynching may be brought under complete control. No other country is so disgraced. Why should this one be?

Kingstree S.C.
Record

JAN 3 1935

Ly[illegible]ngs for 1934 Announced.

According to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, there were 15 persons lynched in 1984. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

FAIRFIELD, IA.
LEDGER

JAN 10 1935

FEWER LYNCHINGS

There were 15 lynchings in the United States in 1934, according to the records compiled by Tuskegee Institute. All of the victims were Negroes, and all of the lynchings took place in the South. The states in which the lynchings took place and the number in each are as follows: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, one each; Florida and Louisiana, two each, and Mississippi, 6.

The total for last year represents a sharp decline from that of 1933, when there were 28 lynchings, not all of which were in the South. The record for 1933 was the worst in several years. Before that time lynchings had been on the decline steadily, from 21 in 1930 to 13 in 1931 and only eight in 1932.

There were many attempts at lynching last year which were prevented. The Tuskegee Institute report credits officers of the law with preventing lynchings in 51 instances. Of these, 44 were in the South and seven in other parts of the country. That is a commendable showing on the part of the law-enforcement agencies, and would seem to indicate a growing realization on the part of officers of their duty to safeguard prisoners from mobs and an increasing resistance to the mob spirit.

The decrease in lynchings in 1934 from the exceptionally high total of the year before, it is hoped, means that the downward trend which had been in progress for some years before 1933 has been resumed and will continue. When the total fell to eight in 1932 there was hope that within a few years this form of mob violence would disappear altogether. Now that 1934 has shown a reduction from the total in 1933, that hope may be revived. If this year beginning shows a further decline, we may again believe that the practice of lynching is on its way out in the United States.

That is as it should be. Lynching has no place in our American form of government.—Davenport Democrat.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
NEWS

JAN 1 1935

The Lynching Record For Last Year

There were 15 lynchings in the United States in 1934, according to the records compiled by Tuskegee Institute. All of the victims were Negroes, and all of the lynchings took place in the South. The states in which the lynchings took place and the number in each are as follows: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, 1 each; Florida and Louisiana, 2 each, and Mississippi, 6.

The total for last year represents a sharp decline from that of 1933, when there were 28 lynchings, not all of which were in the South. The record for 1933 was the worst in several years. Before that time lynchings had been on the decline steadily, from 21 in 1930 to 13 in 1931 and only 8 in 1932.

There were many attempts at lynching last year which were prevented. The Tuskegee Institute report credits officers of the law with preventing lynchings in 51 instances. Of these, 44 were in the South and 7 in other parts of the country. That is a commendable showing on the part of the law-enforcement agencies, and would seem to indicate a growing realization on the part of officers of their duty to safeguard prisoners from mobs and an increasing resistance to the mob spirit.

The decrease in lynchings in 1934 from the exceptionally high total of the year before, it is hoped, means that the downward trend which had been in progress for some years before 1933 has been resumed and will continue. When the total fell to 8 in 1932, there was hope that within a few years this form of mob violence would disappear altogether. Now that 1934 has shown a reduction from the total in 1933, that hope may be revived. If the year now beginning shows a further decline, we may again believe that the practice of lynching is on its way out in the United States.

ROANOKE, VA.
TIMES

DEC 31 1934

LYNCHINGS IN 1934

President R. R. Moton, Booker Washington's successor at Tuskegee Institute, gives some interesting figures concering lynchings in 1934, compiled from the records in the department of records and research at Tuskegee. There were fifteen persons lynched during the present year, according to Dr. Moton, or thirteen less than the number for 1933 (28); seven more than the number for 1932 (8); two more than the number for 1931 (13), and six less than the number for 1930 (21). Of the persons lynched, eight were in the hands of the law, three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

All of the fifteen persons lynched in 1934 were Negroes. They were charged with the following offenses: attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; wounding man in altercation, one; associating with white woman, one; striking man, one; writing insulting letter, one; talking disrespectfully, one; insulting woman one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, one. The States in which lynchings occurred were Alabama one; Florida, two; Georgia, one; Kentucky, one Louisiana, two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one; and Texas, one.

Dr. Moton adds that there were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings; seven of these were in Northern and Western States, and 44 in Southern States.

In connection with Dr. Moton's statement, it is of interest to note that at the approaching session Congress will be asked to enact the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, which contains the following provisions: Any officer charged with the duty of protecting a prisoner from a mob who neglects to carry out that duty, is guilty of a felony, and the penalty may be as high as a $5,000 fine, or five years' imprisonment, or both. Any officer who conspires with a mob to allow a prisoner in his control to be injured or killed, likewise is guilty of a felony, and is subject to from five to twenty-five years' imprisonment. Any county in which a person is seriously injured or killed by a mob is liable for damages of from $2,000 to $10,000 Jurisdiction to try cases arising out of the ac is vested in the United States District Court where the State authorities fail to act wihin 30 days, or where jurors obtainable for service in the State courts are strongly opposed to punishing the offenders. The District Court may try cases arising under the act in any part of its district.

A similar bill was introduced at the last session of Congress but failed of enactment. However, the complexion of the new Congress is materially different from that of the last, and if the advocates of the Costigan-Wagner measure play their cards right they can doubtless command powerful support, more especially from the new Democratic members from Northern and Western States. Obviously, additional legislation is needed if the disgrace of lynching is to be wiped out and it would not be surprising if President Roosevelt should get back of the Costigan-Wagner bill and urge its passage.

Waynesboro, Tenn., County News
January 11, 1935

Lynchings Record Is Released by Tuskegee Institute for Colored

Hangings Occurred in States of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Miss., Texas, and Tenn.

Information concerning lynchings, according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute reveal that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were, attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1 and Texas, 1.

Lynchings - 1934
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. - Dec.

4881

Hickman, Ky., Courier
January 10, 1935

15 LYNCHINGS LAST YEAR, TUSKEGEE RECORDS SHOW

Fifteen persons, all of them Negroes, have been lynched throughout the past year in the United States, marking 13 less than the number 28 for 1935, records compiled in the department of records and reseach of Tuskegee Institute show.

In 1932, lynchings amounted to 8, while in 1931 they ran to 13 and in 1930 to 21. Eight of the persons lynched in 1934, the Tuskegee record states, were in the hands of the law, three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails. There were, however, 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Kentucky, 1; Alabama, 1; Tennessee, 1; Florida, 2; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Georgia, 1; and Texas, 1. Offenses charged were attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; association with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating ofhers in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

Milton, Fla., Gazette
January 24, 1935

FIFTEEN PERSONS LYNCHED DURING THE YEAR 1934

Thirteen Less Than For The Preceeding Year

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, 7 of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 negro men and 3 negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1: striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting woman, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

Selmer, Tenn., Independent
January 18, 1935

Tuskegee's Report on Lynchings For 1934

According to the records compiled by the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Instiute, there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and six less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

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The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas 1.

Elizabethton, N. C., Journal
January 17, 1935

FEWER LYNCHINGS

A report compiled by the Tuskegee Institute shows that there were thirteen fewer persons lynched in the Unted States last year than in 1933, the number of lynchings last year having been 15, as compared with 27 the previous year. Reorts for recent years prior to 1933 show that during 1930 a total of 21 persons were lynched, while during 1932 there were only 8 lynchings in the entire United States.

Of the 15 persons lynched last year 8 were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers outside of jails.

It might be stated, however, that credit for the fewer lynchings last year is due the officers and not the public. There were 51 instances, the report shows, in which officers of the law pre-nted lynchings last year. For-four of the preventions on the part of officers were in Southern states and 7 in Northern and Western states. All the 15 persons lynched were Negroes.

No lynchings were reported from this state during 1934, which again placed North Carolina in the "clean slate" column. The states in which lynchings occurred were: Alabama 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky 1; Louisana, 2; Mississippi 6; Tennessee, 1; Texas 1.

Marietta, Ga., Journal
January 24, 1935

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

According to the records of Tuskegee Institute, 15 persons, all Negroes, were lynched in the United States last year, 13 less than in 1933, but nevertheless 15 too many.

In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengeance included 14 white men, and three Negro women, the remainder being Negro men.

By states, those lynched were, six in Mississippi, two each in Louisiana and Florida, and one each in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

Offenses charged against the Negroes illegally executed were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; and one each for associating with a white woman; insulting a white woman striking a white man, writing an insulting letter talking disrespectfully, wounding a white man and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

Three of those lynched were taken from jails; five were taken from officers of the law while under arrest; the others were apprehended by mobsters before being legally arrested.

In recent years the number of victims of lynch law has been greatly decreased, especially during the last decade, the smallest number being eight in 1932.

When it is recalled that in 1892 no less than 255 persons were lynched, this frightful total including 100 white men, the decrease in the prevalence of this crime may be better realized. During the 50 years in which records have been kept, since 1885, no less than 4,189 persons have been lynched in the United States, of whom 985 were white.

Reidsville, N. C. Review
January 23, 1935

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

According to the records of Tuskagee Institue, 15 persons, all negroes, were lynched in the United States last year, 13 less than in 1933, but nevertheless 15 too many.

In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengeance included 14 white men, and three negro women, the remainder being negro men.

By states those lynched were, six in Mississippi, two each in Louisiana and Florida, and one each in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

Offenses charged against the Negroes illegally executed were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; and one each for associating with a white woman, striking a white man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrepectfully, wounding a white man, and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

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Dickson, Tenn., Herald
January 25, 1935

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

24

According to the records of Tuskegee Institute, 15 persons, all Negroes, were lynched in the United States last year, 13 less than in 1933 but nevertheless 15 too many.

In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengance including 14 white men and three Negro women, the remainder being Negro men.

By states, those lynched were: Six in Mississippi, two each in Louisiana and Florida, and one each in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

Offenses charged against the Negroes illegally executed were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; and one each for associating with a white woman, insulting a white woman, striking a white man, writing an insulting letter, talking

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disrespectfully, wounding a white man, and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

Three of those lynched were taken from jails; five were taken from officers of the law while under arrest; the others were apprehended by mobsters before being legally arrested.

In recent years the number of victims of lynch law has been greatly decreased, especially during the last decade, the smallest number being eight, in 1932.

When it is recalled that in 1892 no less than 255 persons were lynched, this frightfull total including 100 white men, the decrease in the prevalence of this crime may be better realized. During the 50 years in which records have been kept, since 1885, no less than 4,189 persons have been lynched in the United States, of whom 985 were white.

Florence, Ala., Herald
January 25, 1935

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

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In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengance included 14 white men, and three Negro women, the remainder being Negro men.

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In recent years the number of victims of lynch law has been greatly decreased, especially during the last decade, the smallest number being eight, in 1932.

Clinton, N. C., Independent
January 17, 1935

FEWER LYNCHINGS

A report compiled by the Tus-gee Institute shows that there ere thirteen fewer persons nched in the United States last ar than in 1933, the number of nchings last year having been , as compared with 27 the previ-s year. Re[illegible] prior to 1932 show that during 30 a total [illegible] were ached, while during 1932 there [illegible] lynchings in the en-[illegible] States. [illegible] persons lynched last [illegible] hands of the law; 3 were [illegible] jails and 5 from officers [illegible] of jails.

It might be stated, however, that credit for the fewer lynchings last year is due the officers and not the public. There were 51 instances, the report shows, in which officers of the law prevented lynchings last year. Forty-four of the preventions on the part of officers were in Southern states and 7 in Northern and Western states. All the 15 persons lynched were Negroes.

No lynchings were reported from this state during 1934, which again placed North Carolina in the "clean slate" column. The states in which lynchings occurred were: Alabama 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky 1; Louisana, 2; Mississippi 6; Tennessee 1; Texas 1.

JACKSON, TENN., SUN
DEC. 30, 1934

~~15~~ Lynchings In 1934 Against 28 In Previous Year

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 29—(AP)—Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed ~~there were 15~~ lunchings in the nation during 1934—all negroes—to show a decline of 13 under the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released today by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," President Moton's report stated, "and 7 of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. . . . A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and 3 negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the 15 persons lynched, al were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape 4; rape 2; murder 2; wounding man in altercation 1; writing insulting letter 1; talking disrespectfully 1; insulting women 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it 1.

"The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama 1; Florida 2; Georgia 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi 6: Tennessee 1; and Texas 1."

KINGSPORT, TENN., TIMES
DEC. 28, 1934

15 LYNCHED IN U.S. DURING PAST YEAR

Tuskegee Institute Record Shows Decline In Lynching During 1934

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28. (AP)—Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed ~~there were 15 lynchings~~ in the nation during 1934—all negroes—to show a decline of 13 under the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released today by Dr R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails." -

"There were 5s instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," President Moton's report stated, "and 7 of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and 3 negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

"The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1."

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., TIMES
DEC. 29, 1934

LYNCHINGS DECLINE 51 EFFORTS BALKED

Tuskegee's 1934 Report Shows Fifteen Negroes Mobbed—74 Rescued.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28 (AP). —There were fifty-one instances in whi officers of the law prevented lynchin in 1934, when fifteen Negroes lynched throughout the nation.

This information was contained toda in a report released by Dr. R. R. Moto president of Tuskegee institute, one the leading ~~Negro institutions~~ of the country.

There were thirteen fewer lynching this year than recorded for 1933.

In the instances where officers prevented the lynchings, the report said "seven were in northern and western states and forty-four in southern states."

The report continued:

"In the forty-six instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total of seventy-four persons, fourteen white men, fifty-seven Negro men and three Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the fifteen persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted assault, four; assault, two; murder, two; wounding man in altercation, one; writing insulting letter, one; talking disrespectfully, one; insulting woman, one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging, one."

The states where the lynchings occurred and the number in each state: Alabama, one; Florida, two; Georgia, one; Kentucky, one; Louisiana, two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one, and Texas, one.

KNOXVILLE, TENN., NEWS
DEC. 29, 1934

LYNCHINGS TAKE SHARP DECLINE

Only 15 During Year, Drop of 13 From 1933.

By Associated Press

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 29—Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed ~~there were 15 lynch~~ings in the nation during 1934—all Negroes—a decline of 13 under the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," the report stated.

Mississippi led in lynchings, with six. There was one in Tennessee.

Lynchings—1934
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. – Dec.

4882

McCOMB CITY, MISS., JOURNAL
JAN. 1, 1935

1934 Lynchings Total Fifteen

Mississippi Leads List For Year With Six; All Negroes

The Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, from its department of records and research, reports 1 persons lynched in 1934, all of whom were negroes. Offenses alleged are given as: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2, wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1.... insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each were: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

Comparative figures show that the 15 lynchings for 1934 were: 13 less than the 28 in 1933; seven more than the eight in 1932; two more than the 13 in 1931; six less than the 21 in 1930.

Eight persons lynched were in the hands of the law at the time, three being taken from jails and five from the hands of officers outside jails.

There were 51 instances recorded in which officers prevented lynchings: Seven in the Northern and Western states and 44 in the Southern states. In 46 instances, prisoners were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In five cases, armed force was used to repel would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, including 14 white men, 57 negro men and three negro women were saved from death by mob violence in the manner just described.

Lake City S.C. News

JAN 3 1935

Lynchings for 1934 Announced.

According to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances ,armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynching occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2 Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

BOSTON, MASS.
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
DEC 28 1934

Fifteen Lynchings Show Decline of 13

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec 28 (AP)—Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the nation during 1934—all Negroes—a decline of 13 under the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released today by Dr R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," President Moton's report stated, "and 7 of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. . . . A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted assault 4; assault 2; murder 2; wounding man in altercation. 1; writing insulting letter 1; talking disrespectfully 1; insulting women 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it 1.

"The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama 1; Florida 2; Georgia 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi 6; Tennessee 1; and Texas 1."

DETROIT MICH. FREE PRESS
FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 1935

Tuskegee Institute's Figures on Lynching

To the Editor: I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; seven more than the number eight for 1932; two more than the number 13 for 1931; and six less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and three Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offences charged were: attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; wounding man in altercation, one; associating with white woman, one; striking man, one; writing insulting letter one; talking disrespectfully, one; insulting women, one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, one; Florida, two; Georgia, one; Kentucky, one; Louisiana, two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one; and Texas, one.

ROBERT R. MOTON.
President, Tuskegee Institute.

WEST POINT, MISS., TIMES
JAN, 1, 1935

Mississippi Leads in Lynchings.

According to statistics compiled by Tuskegee Institute, fifteen persons were lynched in the South during the year 1934.

Mississippi leads with a total of 6, Alabama had 1, Florida 2, Kentucky 1, Louisiana 2, Tennessee 1 and Texas 1.

According to the same report, there were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northwestern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

The record is one which should bring a blush of shame to every lawabiding citizen of the commonwealth, and it is to be sincerely hoped that the State will redeem itself in 1935.

Our courts of justice are just as prompt and efficient as those of other States, and there is no reason why we should not permit the law to take its course, as the citizens of other States do.

COLORADO SPRINGS COLO. GAZETTE
DEC. 29, 1934

Fewer Lynchings Than Last Year

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28 (AP) Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the nation during 1934—all negroes—to show a decline of 13 under 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," the report stated.

HUNTINGTON W VA ADVERTISER
THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1935

Lynchings

The Tuskegee Institute has just made public its annual report on lynchings in the United States during 1934. The fact that fifteen persons actually or suspected of being involved in crimes that fired mob passion, were executed without benefit of trial by jury constitute a gruesome reminder of a barbaric custom not to be found anywhere else in the world among civilized peoples.

But on the other side of the ledger, we find a more hopeful aspect of the situation. It is the report that fifty-one persons were saved by the officers of the law from the fury of mobs bent on lynching them.

This should suggest how the lynching problem will eventually be overcome. More courageous resistance like that of the Tennessee sheriff and his deputies who saved the Shelby negro from a mob that burned the court house will turn the trick.

Better even than bullets is the common knowledge that officers are prepared to shoot would-be lynchers when necessary. Recently a Maryland negro in a rural county, accused of a serious crime, was threatened with mob violence. The officers spirited him away to a Baltimore jail for safekeeping. He was returned later for trial, but only after the court had made it clear that the negro would be protected in his right to a fair trial by jury at all cost.

ROCHESTER N Y DEMO CHRON
MONDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1934

Lynchings in 1934 Were Less by 13 Than in 1933

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insuling women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Albama, 1; Florida 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1 and Texas, 1.

R. R. MOTON,
President.
Tuskegee Institute. Alabama.

PONTIAC MICH PRESS
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1935

LYNCH LAW

The annual report on lynchings in the United States has issued from the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. That institution's concern with the subject hinges on the facts that the lynching evil is almost wholly indigeneous to the South and the majority of its victims are of the colored race.

The spectacle of mob violence and unleashed passions attempting to supplant the orderly processes of law and order is a cancer the blight of which is clearly discernible. Its exercise brutalizes participants and sets an example of lawlessness entirely out of place in any well organized society. Too often an innocent victim is an object of the mob's inflamed fury.

There are improvements to be noted in the report compiled by Tuskegee statisticians. Fifteen persons were lynched during 1934 but this is thirteen less than in 1933. All the victims were Negroes and all the lynchings occurred below the Mason and Dixon line. The seriousness of the lynch situation is not entirely disclosed by these figures. Attempts were made in fifty-one other instances where officers of the law prevented mob action. Seven of these were in Northern or Western States. In all a total of seventy-one persons, fourteen of whom were white, were saved from unlawful rope by offi

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PARKERSBURG W VA SENTIN
THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1935

LYNCHINGS IN 1934

President R. R. Morton of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute furnishes The Sentinel his annual report on lynchings for the year 1934. There were 15 lynchings and all of them were Negroes.

The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; wounding man in altercation, one; associating with white woman, one; striking man, one; writing insulting letter, one; talking disrespectfully, one; insulting women, one; implicating others in stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, one.

All of the lynchings were in the south and in the following states: Alabama, one; Florida, two; Georgia, one Kentucky,one; Louisiana, two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one; and Texas, one. That is about the average number of lynchings for one year, according to records kept over many years.

There were 51 instances in which the officers of the law prevented lynchings, says the report. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states.

Taking it all in all, there appears to have been as many lynchings as ever but there would have been more had not the officials used greater determination than in previous years.

N. Y. CITY, BRONX HOME NEW

DEC 30 1934

15 Lynchings in 1933 Show Marked Decline

Lynchings decreased sharply in 1934 compared with 1933, Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, reported in Tuskegee, Ala., yesterday. Fifteen lynchings, all involving colored persons, were reported this year. The total for 1933 was 28. All occurred in Southern States, Mississippi showing the lead with six. Others were Florida and Louisiana, two each; Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, one each. Fifty-one occasions where law officers prevented lynchings were reported.

PEORIA ILL JOURNAL
THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1935

FEWER LYNCHINGS

The Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute of Alabama has completed its annual survey of lynchings. The report for 1934 shows that 15 persons, all Negroes, were lynched. This is a discouragingly high number, but the survey shows some hopeful signs.

Only eight of the fifteen persons lynched were in the hands of the law. In these eight cases mobs overpowered guards and seized the prisoners. In the other seven the mobs acted before civil authorities could arrest the accused.

The encouraging parts of the report have to do with attempted lynchings. In 51 instances, officers of the law saved 74 persons from would-be lynchers. Of this number, 14 were white men, 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women.

Only seven of the attempted lynchings took place in northern or western states. The other 44 preventions were in the south. In most cases, peace officers prevented lynchings by secretly removing the prisoners, although in two or three cases, officers were forced to fire on mobs.

Further comment on the report seems unnecessary. It clearly reveals that lynchings can be prevented and that southern peace officers are making a hopeful effort in this direction. Within another generation, lynching may be as rare in the south as in the north.

Brooklyn N.Y.
Times Union

JAN 2 - 1935

LY ING RECORD

Fifteen Alleged Criminals Were Killed by Mobs During Year

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28.—(AP)—Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the nation during 1934—all negroes—to show a decline of 13 under the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released today by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of the Tuskegee Institute, showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," President Moton's report stated, "and of these 7 were in northern and western states and 44 in Southern states In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken . . . A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and 3 negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted assault, 4; assault, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging, it, 1.

"The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1."

GREENVILLE, S. C. NEWS

DEC 29 1934

FEWER LYN HINGS IN U. S. IN 1934

51 Instances Cited Where Officers Save People From Mob Violence

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28.—(AP) —There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings in 1934, when 15 negroes were lynched throughout the nation.

This information was contained today in a report released by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee institute, one of the leading negro institutions of the country.

There were 13 fewer lynchings this year than recorded for 1933.

In the instances where officers prevented the lynchings, the report said "seven were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states."

The report continued:

"In the 48 instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men 57 negro men and three negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted assault four; assault four; murder 2; wounding man in altercation one; writing insulting letter one; talking disrespectfully one; insulting women one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging one."

The states where the lynchings occurred and the number in each state: Alabama one; Florida two; Georgia one; Kentucky one; Louisiana two; Mississippi six; Tennessee one and Texas one.

NORWALK, CONN. HOUR

DEC 29 1934

LYNCHINGS DECLINE

Tuskegee, Ala. (AP) — Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the nation during 1934—all Negroes —to show a decline of 13 under the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

Lynchings-1934
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan.-Dec.

4883

Key West, Fla., Citizen
January 26, 1935

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

According to the records of Tuskegee Institute, 15 persons, all Negroes, were lynched in the United States last year, 13 less than in 1933, but nevertheless 15 too many.

In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengance included 14 white men, and three Negro women, the remainder being Negro men.

By states, those lynched yere, six in Mississippi, two each in Louisiana and Florida, and one each in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

Offenses charged against the Negroes illegally executed were: Attempted rape four; rape, two; murder, two; and one each for associating with a white woman; insulting a white woman, striking a white man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrespectfully, wounding a white man and implicating others in stealing turpentine.

Three of those lynched were taken from jails; five were taken from officers of the law while under arrest; the others were apprehended by mobsters before being legally arrested.

In recent years the number of victims of lynch law has been greatly decreased especially during the last decade, the smallest number being eight, in 1922.

When it is recalled that in 1892 no less than 255 persons were lynched, this frightful total including 100 white men, the decrease in the prevalence of this crime may be better realized. During the 50 years in which records have been kept, since 1885, no less than 4,189 persons have been lynched in the United States, of whom 985 were white.

ANDERSON IND HERALD
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1934

DECLINE IN LYNCHINGS

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28 (AP)—Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the nation during 1934 all negroes—to show a decline of 13 under 28 lynchings recorded for 1933. The report was released today by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute.

Wetumpka, Ala., Herald
January 24, 1935

15 LYNCHED IN 1934

According to the records of Tuskegee Institute, 15 persons, all Negroes, were lynched in the United States last year, 13 less than in 1933, but nevertheless 15 too many.

In 51 instances of attempted lynchings last year, officers of the law prevented mobs from carrying out their designs. Those saved from mob vengence included 14 white men, and three Negro women, the remainder being negro men.

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Guntersville, Ala., Advertiser
January 16, 1935

THE LYNCHINGS OF 1934

Fifteen people, all Negroes, we lynched during 1934, according the records compiled in the Depai ment of Records and Research the Tuskegee Institute. This nur ber is thirteen less than the numbe twenty-eight, lynched in 1933; seve more than the number, eight, 1932; two more than the numbe thirteen, in 1931; and six less th the number, twenty-one, in 193. Eight of those lynched were in tl hands of the law, three of these b ing taken from jails and five fro officers of the law outside of jai

In fifty-one instances officers the law prevented lynchings, sev of these being in Northern and We ern States, and forty-four in Southern States. In forty-six of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented, or other precautions were taken. In the other five instances armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. Fourteen white men, fifty-seven negro men and three negro women were saved from violence.

The offense charged against those illegally done to death were: attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; wounding man in altercation, one; association with white woman, one; striking man, one; writing insulting letter, one; talking disrespectfully, one; insulting woman, one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, one.

Mississippi led in the number of chings, six; Florida and Louisi a came next with two each; and one each was recorded for Alabama Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and

Literary Digest

LANCASTER OHIO GAZETTE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1934

LYNCHINGS THIRTEEN FEWER THIS YEAR IS REPORT OF INSTITUTE

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number for 1933; 7 more than for 1932; 2 more than for 1931; and 6 less than for 1930. 8 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 7 of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

WAYNESBORO, ~~MISS.~~ NEWS
JAN. 11, 1935
J17

Lynchings Record Is Released by Tuskegee Institute for ~~Colored~~

Hangings Occurred in States of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Miss., Texas, and Tenn.

Information concerning lynchings, according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute reveal that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

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ST. LOUIS, MO., ARGUS
JAN. 4, 1935 J12

TUSKEGEE REPORTS 15 LYNCHINGS DURING 193

Tuskegee, Ala.,—Dr. R. R. Moton, principal of Tuskegee, announced the findings of Tuskegees records on lynchings for 193 showed a total of 15 or 13 less than in 1933. All records on lynchings were:

Six in Mississipppi; two each n Florida and Louisiana, and one each in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

Gastonia N.C.
Gazette
DEC 29 1934

Lynchings Show Sharp Decrease Under Last Year

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 29.—(UP) — Lynchings decreased sharply during 1934 in comparison with 1933 a report of Dr. R. R Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, revealed today.

Fifteen lynchings, all of the victims Negroes, were reported to the institute's department of records and research this year. The lynch total for 1933 was 28.

All the lawless acts occurred in southern states, Mississippi showing the lead with six. Others were: Florida and Louisiana, two each; Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas, one each.

Fifty-one occasions where law officers prevented lynchings were reported, seven instances in northern and western states and 44 in the south. Alertness of the law saved 74 persons from lynch death, the report continued.

Offenses for which suspects were lynched were listed as follows:

Attempted attack, four; attack, two; murder, two, and one each for wounding a man in an altercation, associating with a white woman, striking a man, writing an insulting letter, talking disrespectfully, insulting women, implicating others in a charge of stealing and bootlegging turpentine.

GRAND JUNCTION COLO. SENTINEL
JAN. 8, 1935 J17

LYNCHING RECORD IMPROVING

The Tuskegee Institute reports that the lynching record for this enlightened country was not quite so bad for 1934 as for 1933, though fifteen lynchings were indulged in by Americans in the past year. Aside from the reduced number of lynchings that actually took place is the news that, of 51 attempted lynchings, 44 were prevented; in 5 of the cases it was necessary to resort to armed force to protect the would-be victims from the infuriated, senseless mobs. It is encouraging, also, to note that officials of southern states were especially active and courageous in affording protection to negroes in many instances, an act not listed as a custom in that section where too often the officials have been part of the lawless mob.

Public opinion is turning against lawlessness of every type just now, and lynching is no exception. Hereafter those officials permitting and condoning this custom of the dark ages will, along with communities, be listed as the unenlightened portion of our citizenry. Four southern states—Arkansas, Virginia and the two Carolinas—did much to redeem the good name of the South by being free from lynchings the past year, but Mississippi displayed unusual savagery by furnishing six out of the fourteen in the land.

BRISTOL TENN. HERALD-COURIER
DEC. 30, 1934 J5

Fifteen Lynchings.

Records of the Tuskegee Institute show that there were fifteen lynchings in the United States during this year, all of the victims being Negroes, eight of whom were taken from the hands of the law. Of the fifteen lynchings six were for rape or attempted rape, two for murder and the rest for lesser offenses.

Twenty-eight persons were lynched last year. That there were only one more than half as many lynchings this year is heartening to the law-abiding public. Heartening also is the fact that fifty-one attempted lynchings were prevented, although it is discouraging to know they were attempted. Had all the mobs succeeded in their purpose there would have been sixty-six lynchings.

The most notable instance of the prevention of a lynching this year was that which occurred recently at Shelbyville, Tennessee, where a mob attempted to seize a Negro who was on trial on a charge of attacking a white girl. In clashes with National Guardsmen who had been ordered the scene four members of the mob were lled and many wounded, and Tennessee reemed its good name.

The most disgraceful record for the year as made by Mississippi, where six persons ere lynched. There were two lynchings in orida, two in Louisiana, and one each in Tenssee, Texas, Alabama, Kentucky and Georgia already said, eight of these mob victims were the hands of the law when seized. Doubtless se eight lynchings could have been prevented easily as were the fifty-one attempted outes of the kind that failed. It is gratifying t there were many fewer lynchings this year n last, but there should have been none. b lawlessness must be stamped out.

NEW YORK, N. Y. HER.-TRIB.
DEC 31 1934

16 Lynchings in 1934 Represent 43% Decline

Mississippi Leads With 6 and Three States Report 2

Sixteen lynchings in 1934 are listed in a report made public today by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. This figure is twelve less than the list prepared by the association for 1933, representing a decline of almost 43 per cent.

Mississippi leads with six lynchings followed by Louisiana, Florida and Alabama with two each, and Kentucky, Texas, Georgia and Tennessee with one each.

Walter White, secretary of the association, finds that the decrease in number of lynchings is "due primarily to the fact that fear of Federal legislation caused a complete cessation of lynching while the Costigan-Wagner bill was pending before Congress."

He notes that a great outburst of lynching occurred as soon as it was apparent that Congress would not act on the bill. Federal legislation, he says, is the only hope against lynching, as the fear of it successfully stopped the practice for a time.

In a report covering the year 1934, issued by the International Labor Defense, the number of lynchings is set at twenty-five. This report includes lynchings in which police participated, which, it says, other reports do not include.

Another report, issued December 28 by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, stated that only fifteen lynchings had occurred in the course of last year. He listed only one lynching for Alabama

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SYRACUSE N Y POST STANDARD
TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1935

Lynchings in 1934

To the Editor of The Post-Standard:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; seven more than the number eight for 1932; two more than the number 13 for 1931; and six less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 Negro men and three Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; wounding man in altercation, one; asociating with white woman, one; striking man, one; writing insulting letter, one; talking disrepectfully, one; insulting women one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, one; Florida two; Georgia, one; Kentucky, one; Louisiana, two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one, and Texas, one.

R. R. MOTON,
President Tuskee Normal and Industrial Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.

NEW YORK, N. Y. HER.-TRIB.
DEC 29 1934

15 Lynchings in 1934 Drop of 13 From '33 List

Tuskegee Institute Report Says Law Saved 74 Others

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28 (AP).—A Tuskegee Institute report today showed that there had been fifteen lynchings in the nation during 1934—all the victims Negroes. Twenty-eight lynchings were recorded for 1933.

The report, released by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee, said that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were fifty-one instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," Dr. Moton's report said "and seven of these were in Northern and Western states and forty-four in Southern states. In forty-six of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. Seventy-four persons, fourteen white men, fifty-seven Negro men and three Negro women were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the fifteen persons lynched, the offenses were: Attempted assault, 4 assault, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1 insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

"The states in which the lynchings occurred are: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1, and Texas. 1."

Lynchings - 1934
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. - Dec.

4884

Athens, Ga., Banner-Herald
December 30, 1934

LYNCHING ON THE DECLINE

From statistics compiled by officials o Tuskegee Institute, the number of lynchings in the United States for 1934 was 15 against 28 in 1933, a decline of 13.

Of the fifteen persons lynched all were negroes, alleged to be guilty of the following crimes:

Attempted assault, 4; assault, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1, and Texas, 1.

The report shows that there were fifty-one instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, seven of these occurring in northern and western states. The report is thorough and illuminating, giving in detail the history of the cases, those that were prevented as well as those that were lynched.

Georgia had only one lynching during the year which is an indication of the growth of anti-lynching feeling in this state. The people of the south are not of the barbarious turn of temperament, but only in isolated cases do lynchings occur. The principal crime for which lynching is resorted to is that of rape, but in most instances, the law has been allowed to take its course. However, under such trying conditions, the brutality of the criminal is of such character, it arouses the indignation of a red blooded people to an enraged temperament that becomes uncontrollable and only the life of the brute can satisfy an outraged people, whether they reside in the southern states or in states where racial equality is more seriously considered. So long as the crime of rape is committed, it may be expected that there will occur lynchings, but with the vanishing of such crimes, lynchings will not be resorted to, but the law will be allowed to take its course and the defendant given every legal opportunity to prove his innocence.

REGISTER
GALESBURGH, ILL

DEC 31 1934

YEAR'S LYNCHING RECORD

The following record ~~of lynchings~~ the past year comes from the president of Tuskogee Normal and Industrial Institute, Alabama:

"I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. 8 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 7 of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and 3 negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1 Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1."

Comment on the foregoing seems unnecessary. But a few days ago there occurred in a southern city an attempt at lynching that resulted in the calling out of the military, and the killing of several of the members of the mob as they charged on the soldiers, who acted in self defense.

At least some of these outbreaks would be prevented if the people were convinced that there would be speedy trials, and in case of clear proof of guilt, speedy and certain sentences. Back of many of these demonstrations is a suspicion that through delays, subterfuge and technicalities justice will not be meted out.

BUFFALO, N. Y
COURIER EXPRESS

JAN 6 1935

Progress Against Lynching

The year 1934 was not particularly gratifying to the sensibilities of anyone concerned about the nuisance of lynching as a reflection on civilization; yet, materially considered, a certain improvement is indicated. Tuskegee Institute reports that there were fifteen lynchings of Negroes in 1934, a decline of thirteen from 1933.

A memorial addressed to President Roosevelt urging that in his opening address to Congress he place the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill on his "must" program, has been signed by nine governors, 27 mayors, 58 churchmen, 54 college presidents and professors, and 109 lawyers, editors, writers, jurists and other distinguished citizens. The memorial has been transmitted to the President by the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People. The passage of the bill seems not at all unlikely in view of the considerable progress it made at the last session of Congress.

There are no new terms available wherewith to condemn the outrage of lynching, so long has it chafed the spirit of law-abiding intelligence the country over. The patience of civilized society has long been exhausted with it. Its brutalizing effect on the outlook of growing generation has been vigorously deplored by all intelligent patriots who consistently hope for better things for America through the progress of the American spirit of justice and fair play. It is fondly to be trusted that the effect of anti-lynching legislation will be a gradual erasure of the most deplorable social blot on the escutcheon of the American tradition.

BOSTON, MASS.
POST

JAN 4 1935

THE LYNCHING RECORD

Major R. R. Moton of the Tuskegee Institutes, still follows th course laid down by Booker T. Washington, in reporting the known lynchings of the country. This year h finds that 15 persons were thus illegally killed; but this is a great improvement over the 1933 record when 28 lynchings occurred.

It might be said, too, that 74 persons, 14 of them white, 57 colored men and three colored women were saved from the fury of the mobs by exhibition of force or strategy. This is facing in the right direction, and it suggests that before many years the crime of lynching may be brought under complete control. No other country is so disgraced. Why should this one be?

JOURNAL

JAN 2 1935

LYNCHINGS FOR 1934

According to the records of the Tuskegee Institute 15 persons were lynched in 1934, 12 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than 13 for 1931 and 6 less than 21 for 1930. Eight were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers outside jails.

In 51 instances officers prevented lynchings. Seven were in the northern and western States and 44 in southern States. In 46 instances prisoners were removed, guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and three negro women, were saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of 15 lynched all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in the charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1. Alabama had 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1, and Texas, 1.

Robesonian
Lumberton

JAN 7 1935 N C

FEWER PERSONS LYNCHED

Thirteen fewer persons were lynched in the United States in 1934 than in 1933—15 in 1934 as compared with 28 the previous year—according to records compiled at Tuskegee (Ala.) institute, reports President R. R. Moton. In 1932 the number lynched was 8, in 1931 the number was 13, and in 1930 the number was 21.

Eight of the persons lynched in 1934 were in the hands of the law, 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers outside of jails.

A better side of the picture is the fact that there were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Forty-four of these were in Southern states, 7 in Northern and Western states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons—14 white men, 57 negro men and 3 negro women—were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs. Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes.

North Carolina again chalked up a clean record. Tre states in which lynchings occurred were; Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; Texas, 1.

The 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings seem to be additional proof that officers can prevent a lynching when they are determined to do so.

CANTON, O.
REPOSITORY

JAN 2 1935

Lynching Decreased

Somewhere in the list of things which were better in 1934 appears a decrease in the number of lynchings. Mobs killed 15 Negroes last year, a decline of 13 from 1933 when several of the victims were white persons.

Eight of the 15 were taken from the hands of the law by their murderers. Five were in the custody of officers outside jails, and three were taken from jails. Yet, another set of figures on the same subject reveals an encouraging fact.

In 51 instances lynchings were prevented by officers of the law. A total of 74 persons—14 white men, 57 Negro men and three Negro women—were saved from death at the hands of mobs in 1934. Unfortunately, the public is not so likely to hear about a prevention of lynching as it is to hear about a lynching.

The latest example of what courageous officers of the law can do when forced to deal with a lynching mob was the recent incident at Shelbyville, Tenn. Thanks to prompt action by a sheriff and a governor, the intended victim was removed to a safe place and the mob spent its fury by burning down its own courthouse. Ironically, troops killed several mobsters in the rioting.

Tennessee, of course, is one of the states in which lynching is almost a normal procedure. Others in the lynching column last year were Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi. True to its reputation of being the worst state in the union, Mississippi alone accounted for 6 of the 15 lynchings.

ALLENTOWN, PA.
Call

JAN 3 1935

DECREASE IN LYNCHINGS NOTED IN PAST YEAR

While the year 1934 brought some of the worst exhibitions of mob violence as expressed in lynchings, the entire year showed gratifying decrease in this form of crime over the year 1933 when the disgraceful total, 33, was reached.

Records compiled at Tuskegee Institute show that there were just fifteen lynchings during the year and half the victims were taken from the officers of the law. Three were removed from jails in which they already had been confined while five were taken from the hands of officers of the law outside of jails. The others were captured by mobs before officers of the law had been able to do anything about the reputed crimes for which the lynchings were done.

Fifteen lynchings compare with 28 in 1933, with only eight in 1932, which was a low mark for many years; with 13 for 1931 and with 21 for 1930. Of the fifteen persons lynched, all were Negroes, and the alleged crimes for which they were lynched were: Attemped rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding a man in an altercation, 1; associating with white women, 1; striking a man, 1; writing an insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating another or others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

It will be noted that in almost half of the cases, the charges even if true, were insignificant, while in all the rest the charges though serious had not been proven and justice was not afforded an opportunity to learn whether they were true or not.

All of the cases occurred in the South, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky Tennessee and Texas having one each; Florida and Louisiana two each while Mississippi had forty per cent of all the lynchings, with a total of six.

The only ray of light in this display of black barbarism is the figure on cases where lynchings were prevented. Thus the records show that in 51 instances officers of the law were determined enough and strong enough to uphold the majesty of the law against drunken, crazed mobs. It is to the great credit of the southern states, as against the lynching debits that 44 such cases occurred in that section, while seven were in northern and western states which kept their escutcheons unblemished. In 46 of the 51 instances in which accused men were sought by mobs, prisoners were removed to points of safety and precautions taken to protect them while in five cases armed force was used to repel the attacks of mobs. Thus the lives of 74 persons, among them 14 white men, were saved from illegal execution.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.
DEMOCRAT & CHRONICLE

JAN 7 1935 X

Calls Dr. Moton's Data On Lynching Inadequate

Editor Democrat and Chronicle:

When I read the statement issued last week by R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, on the number of lynchings in 1934, I questioned the truth of his figures as I had seen figures last fall in excess of those he purported to be final for the entire year. It is true that there were fewer lynchings this year than last, but the increasing ferocity of the lynch mobs (reflecting the increasingly bitter economic struggle for jobs between the southern white workers and the Negro workers) and the rarity of prompt action, if any by the white authorities to save the victims, makes any apology for these same white authorities particularly unsavory.

There were twenty-five lynchings recorded in 1934, according to a compilation made by the International Labor Defense, and released on January 2nd. All the victims were Negroes. This figure of recorded lynchings compared with 49 for 1933 (two not recorded until January 1934), and 37 in 1932. The figures are not claimed to be inclusive of all the lynchings which occurred during 1934, but only of those which were recorded in the press, with the addition of two about which no news report was ever published. Information of these was obtained by the International Labor Defense through private sources. An indication of the incompleteness of the record is afforded in the fact that information about several of these lynchings was only published in the press weeks and months after their occurrence.

The I. L. D. record shows that Mississippi heads the list, with eight lynchings, followed by Louisiana with four, Georgia and Florida with three each, Alabama with two, and Kentucky, New York (the Davis-Fisher case of Niagara Falls which will be appealed this month in Rochester by the I. L. D.), South Carolina, Texas, and Tennessee with one each. In fifteen of the lynchings, implication of police or sheriff's officers was shown. In seven cases, the victims were turned over to the lynchers by officers in whose charge they were in, six police or officers participated directly. in one the officers were conveniently out of town and left the jail unguarded, and in one case the authorities catagorically refused to investigate the lynching. In sixteen cases of lynchings recorded, no "mobs" were formed but the lynchings were carried out by small groups of individuals, or by a small, carefully organized gang, often with county officers at the head.

The addition to this list of the number of Negroes murdered by individuals imbued with the lynch-spirit, or by wanton police, confident that no punishment would follow their act, would bring it up into the hundreds. This method of terrorizing Negroes for the purpose of keeping them in economic subjection—the purpose behind all lynchings—has become more and more common all over the country, to a certain extent taking the place of spectacular mob lynchings.

V. ROSENBERG,
International Labor Defense.

MARION, O.
STAR

JAN 3 1935

Lynching Decreased.

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Lynchings—1934
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan.—Dec.

4885

GREENSBORO, N. C.
RECORD
JAN 3 1935

Fewer Lynchings

The Tuskegee (Alabama) institute reports a decrease in lynchings in the United States in the year just ended. In 1934 there were only 15 lynchings as compared with 28 in 1933. The decrease, while highly gratifying, is hardly great enough to elicit vociferous applause. In 1932 there were but eight lynchings, seven fewer than in 1934.

All of the 1934 mob murders occurred in seven states, and the seven were all southern states. In North Carolina, and be it said to her credit, no lynching occurred last year. Persons have been lynched for offenses much less grievous than some that were committed in this state in 1934; nevertheless, North Carolina escaped the ignominy of being the scene of a mob murder during the year. That is a circumstance in which the state may take pardonable pride.

There was some notable and commendable activity in preventing lynchings last year. Officers, as shown in the Tuskegee summary, were able by bravery and efficiency to prevent 51 attempted lynchings. Outstanding among these instances in which the law took a courageous and determined stand and won over the mob was the Shelby, Tenn., case which occurred during last month.

Some observers and commentators confidently predict there will be introduced in the 74th Congress, convening today, the Wagner-Costigan bill which provides for federal intervention to prevent lynching. There are now laws on the statute books of each and every state against lynching and other mob crimes.

A strong and honest argument, and what should be an effective one, against federal interference in this matter is the prevention of lynchings by the local and state authorities of the several states. Time after time it has been graphically demonstrated that prompt, determined and courageous action on the part of local and state authorities will, in the vast majority of cases, prevent lynchings.

What is needed is a stronger public sentiment against mob rule rather than the passage of federal laws that would forbid what is already forbidden by state laws.

Abbeville, Ala., Herald
January 3, 1935

LYNCHINGS DECREASE DURING YEAR OF 1934

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. 8 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

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Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4 rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfulyl, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The States in which lynching occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi

Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.
R. R MOTON,
Pres., Tuskegee Normal

Colorado Springs, Colo.
GAZETTE
JAN 2 1935

FEWER LYNCHINGS

Tuskegee institute reports a total of 15 lynchings in 1934, 13 less than in 1933, but seven more than in 1932 and two more than in 1931. Eight of the 15 persons lynched were in the hands of the law, three being taken from jails and five from officers outside of jails. Against this record, however, there were 51 instances reported in which officers prevented lynchings, thus saving 74 persons from death at the hands of mobs. Seven of these cases were in the north; 44 in the south.

But if the south's records in the prevention of lynchings was good, it also accounted for all 15 cases of mob action. There was not a lynching in a northern or western state. Too, all 15 victims were negroes.

The fact that there ever is resort to mob action may be deprecated, tho it is to be expected in new countries and in countries where there are strong racial conflicts, but there is some satisfaction to be found in the 1934 record. Lynch law is not so lightly invoked as before, an it appears for the most part only in extreme cases.

Hazard, Ky. Herald
January 10, 1935

Fifteen Persons [illegible]re Lynched [illegible] 1934

R. R. Morton, president of Tuskegee Institute, has issued statistics compiled by the department of records and research of the institution, showing that 15 persons were lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the figure for 1933; 7 more than the number for 1932; 2 more than the number for 1931, and 6 less than the number for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched last year were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 others from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repeal the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 ngro men and 3 negro women were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letters, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Gerogia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; Texas,

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erry N.H. News

JAN 4 1935

LYNCHINGS IN 1934.

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NEWARK, O.
ADVOCATE &
AMERICAN TRIBUNE
JAN 10 1935

LYNCHING IN 1934.

Even in its most favorable aspects, lynching is not a pleasant subject for discussion serving as it does to remind us of the thi line that separates the natures of human beings from those of the beasts.

However, there is a measure of gratificatio in the knowledge that no more than 15 persons were lynched in the year that has jus passed. This is important news because i represents progress.

There have been years in which as high a 231 men were executed by mobs, often inflamed by drinking orgies, and for many year the average ranged between 100 and 200.

Of late, however, the trend has been definitely downward and, in consequence, there arises in hopeful minds a renewed confidence that this evil will ultimately be eliminated from our national life. We cannot with reason lay claim to the attainment of a high state of civilization until that objective has been reached.

Ronceverte, W. Va., News
January 5, 1935

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE REPORTS 15 LYNCHINGS IN 1934.

Robert R. Moton, president of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, an Alabama institution for Negroes, sends the press his annual letter concerning lynchings in the United States. He says:

"I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number (28) for 1933; 7 more than the number (8) for 1932; 2 more than the number (13) for 1931, and 6 less than the number (21) for 1930. 8 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law, 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 7 of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1· talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee 1; Texas 1.

[illegible] WASH. RECORD
JANUARY 4, 1935

LYNCHING PICTURE TOLD

The Tuskegee institute, a school devoted to training negro men and women, has sent the Record a report of lynchings that occurred during 1934, which shows that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934, 13 less than the preceding period. Eight of these were taken from the hands of the law, three from jail and five in custody of officers outside of jail.

Officers prevented lynchings in 51 instances. A total of 74 people were saved for the law. All 15 of the lynched persons were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white women, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

Portsmouth, Va. Star
December 28, 1934

Less Lynchings During 1934

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28—(AP)—Records of Tuskegee Institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the nation during 1934—all negroes—to show a decline of 13 under the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released today by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"The States in which the lynching occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama 1; Florida 2; Georgia 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi 6; Tennessee 1, and Texas 1."

Waycross, Ga., Georgian
January 11, 1935

Lynching Decreases In United States

R. R. Morton, colored, president of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, Tuskegee Institutte, Ala., reports that 15 persons were lynched in 1934 in comparison with 28 in 1933; all were negroes.

The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootleggin it, 1.

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Tarboro, N. C. Southerner
January 4, 1935

FIFTEEN NEGROES LYNCHED IN 1934

Tuskegee, Ala., Jan. 4.—A total of fifteen Negro lynchings took place in the United States during 1934, records kept at Tuskegee institute here revealed. The number was thirteen less than the year's total for 1933.

In fifty-one cases during 1934, authorities prevented lynchings, according to the survey.

Of the fifteen lynched, eight were taken from the law—three from jails, and five from officers outside jails.

The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; Texas, 1.

CLEVELAND, O.
PLAIN DEALER

JAN 10 1935

Gaining on Lynching.

Not the least of the public [illegible] performed by Tuskegee Institute is the keeping of an accurate record of lynchings. The report for 1934, now forthcoming, is not exactly cheering, for it records fifteen examples of mob murder. But it also reveals a striking gain from 1933 when the lynchings mounted to 28. That was the worst lynching record of some time and came after a series of years in which the operations of Judge Lynch had been progressively curtailed. Thus 1933 brought a relapse; 1934 shows hopes for recovery.

Against the story of fifteen lynchings accomplished is the encouraging account of 74 instances in which mobs bent on lynching were foiled by force or strategy. Still fresh in the public memory is the case in Tennessee where sheriffs and national guardsmen stood firm against the mob's bluff, and casualties were in the gang which sought to rush the jail.

One such example of backbone in law enforcement is worth a million preachments against lynching. For the mobster is always a coward; he has no desire to be punctured by buckshot.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
December 30, 1934

Fifteen Lynchings.

Records of the Tuskegee Institute show that there were fifteen lynchings in the United States during this year, all of the victims being Negroes, eight of whom were taken from the hands of the law. Of the fifteen lynchings six were for rape or attempted rape, two for murder and the rest for lesser offenses.

Twenty-eight persons were lynched last year. That there were only one more than half as many lynchings this year is heartening to the law-abiding public. Heartening also is the fact that fifty-one attempted lynchings were prevented, although it is discouraging to know they were attempted. Had all the mobs succeeded in their purpose there would have been sixty-six lynchings.

The most notable instance of the prevention of a lynching this year was that which occurred recently at Shelbyville, Tennessee, where a mob attempted to seize a Negro who was on trial on a charge of attacking a white girl. In clashes with National Guardsmen who had been ordered to the scene four members of the mob were killed and many wounded, and Tennessee redeemed its good name.

The most disgraceful record for the year was made by Mississippi, where six persons were lynched. There were two lynchings in Florida, two in Louisiana, and one each in Tennessee, Texas, Alabama, Kentucky and Georgia. As already said, eight of these mob victims were in the hands of the law when seized. Doubtless these eight lynchings could have been prevented as easily as were the fifty-one attempted outrages of the kind that failed. It is gratifying that there were many fewer lynchings this year than last, but there should have been none. Mob lawlessness must be stamped out.

JAN 3 1935
PETERSBURG, VA.
PROGRESS INDEX

The Lynching Record

LYNCHINGS in this country numbered 15 in 1934. Of course, there were just 15 too many. But the statistics submitted show that officers of the law prevented lynchings to the number of 51. This is a feature of the figures on lynchings which should not be overlooked. All the lynchings which occurred in 1934 were in Southern States, but seven attempted lynchings occurred in the North and West.

It is too much to hope that Mississippi, Georgia and Florida will let us get through 1935 without a lynching. Still we are moved to hope much from the fact that officers of the law in Southern States prevented 44 lynchings last year.

Lynchings - 1934
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Johnson City, Tenn., Staff News
December 31, 1934

Fewer Lynchings

Lynchings, the expression of blood-lustful mobs gone berserk, show a promising decline during the year just closing. A southern institution annually furnishing statistics, and conducting a never-ending fight against the evil, points out the fact that only fifteen were lynched in 1934, as compared with twenty-eight in 1933.

The fact bespeaks several factors operating to curb the practice in which citizens undertake to administer unwritten laws by their own hands, taking the law out of the hands of duly authorized and qualified enforcement agencies. In the first place, it indicates greater confidence in these agencies, belief that justice will prevail in the courts, and willingness to allow the law to claim its own. On the other hand, it also suggests that citizens, busy with their own affairs, have little time to waste in frenzied demonstrations of a particularly bestial nature.

From an analytical point of view, the year 1934 has ushered in a new era of justice, if apprehension of cr als and punishment of crime is any criterion. Noti fact that public enemies have been weeded out a before and that the anathema of the law is tant nt to extinction, potential criminals have learned to cur its wrath with a measure of foreboding. They fear the law when it truly shows its teeth.

Citizens do not help the law when they undertake to enforce it in ways that violate its provisions. They weaken it, and many times partake of barbaric violence and unseemly passion that would sicken and horrify the most vengeful and bloodthirsty barbarian. In this they gain no end, save the one of disgracing themselves and their communities. They dip their hands in human blood, many times without assurance of guilt, and make of none effect all of the laws which other citizens in generations of yore have handed down to them as something precious and worth striving to achieve.

Truly, a reduction in this terrible toll is worth achieving

Hendersonville, N. C. Times
December 28, 1934

15 LYNCHINGS IS 1934 RECORD

But in 51 Instances Officers of Law Prevented Such Violence

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala., Dec. 28.—According to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, 15 persons were lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931, and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions were taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and three negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1 writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1: and Texas, 1.

Savannah, Ga., News
December 29, 1934

FIFTEEN NEGROES LYNCHED

Fifty-one Instances Where Officers Prevented Lynchings

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28 (AP).—There were fifty-one instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings in 1934, when fifteen negroes were lynched throughout the nation.

This information was contained today in a report released by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegge Institute, one of the leading negro institutions of the country.

There were thirteen fewer lynchings this year than recorded for 1933.

In the instances where officers prevented the lynchings, the report said "seven were in northern and western states and forty-four in southern states."

The states where the lynchings occurred and the number in each state: Alabama 1; Florida 2; Georgia 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi 6; Tennessee 1, and Texas 1.

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on, S. C., Evening Post
December 28, 1934

Fifteen Lynchings Take Place in 1934

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28. (AP)—Records of Tuskegee institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the nation during 1934—all negroes—to show a decline of 13 under the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released today by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee institute, showed that "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

"The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama 1; Florida 2; Georgia 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi 6: Tennessee 1, and Texas 1."

Huntsville, Ala., Times
December 31, 1934

A Better Showing

The annual report of Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, showing a decided decline in the number of lynchings during 1934, is heartening in two respects.

First, there was a big drop from the 1933 figures, which showed 28 were lynched.

In the past twelve months, only 15 persons were lynched.

In the second place, the record he submitted revealed there is a decided stiffening on the part of law officers to mob efforts.

Fifty-one instances were cited in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Of these, seven were in Northern and Western states, while 44 were in the South.

In 46 of the 51 instances, Dr. Moton reported, prisoners were removed, guards increased, or other precautions taken.

In the remaining five instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers.

Of the 15 lynchings, one took place in Alabama; one in Tennessee; two in Florida; one in Georgia; one in Kentucky; two in Louisiana; one in Texas; and six in Mississippi.

Many of the crimes were of the most aggravated nature, of the type that stir popular emotion and create a mob psychology.

There was never, however, a crime so great that a mob was justified in taking the law into its own hands.

The courts, organized for that purpose, will mete out speedy and adequate punishment, if given full and fair opportunity.

Shelby, N. C.
January 2, 1935

Lynchings In U. S. Decrease During '34

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Jan. 1.—There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings in 1934, when 15 negroes were lynched throughout the nation.

This information was contained today in a report released by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee institute, one of the leading negro institutions in the country.

There were 13 fewer lynchings this year than recorded in 1933.

In the instances where officers prevented the lynchings the report said "seven were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states."

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
RECORD

DEC 31 1934

Lynchings in 1934

Editor of The Record:

Sir:—I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find, according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 fewer than the 28 in 1933; seven more than the eight in 1932; two more than the 13 in 1931, and six fewer than the 21 in 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed, the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons—14 white men, 57 Negro men and three Negro women—were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1, and Texas, 1.

R. R. MOTON,
President, Tuskegee Institute.

Columbus, Ga. Ledger
December 28, 1934

Fifteen Lynched During Year Tuskegee Records Show; All Are Negroes

12 28

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28.—(AP)—Records of Tuskegee institute today showed there were 15 lynchings in the nation during 1934—all negroes—to show a decline of 13 under the 28 lynchings recorded for 1933.

The report, released today by Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee institute, stated "eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails."

"There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings." President Moton's report stated.

"Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted assault 4; assault 2, murder 2; wounding man in altercation 1; writing insulting letter 1; talking disrespectfully 1; insulting women 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging 1.

"The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama 1; Florida 2; Georgia 1; Kentucky 1; Louisiana 2; Mississippi 6; Tennessee 1: and Texas 1."

Cordele, Ga. Dispatch
January 1, 1935

LYNCHING ON THE DECLINE

From statistics compiled by officials of Tuskegee Institute, the number of lynchings in the United States for 1934 was 15 against 28 in 1933, a decline of 13.

Of the fifteen persons lynched all were negroes alleged to be guilty of the following crimes:

Attempted assault, 4; assault, 2; murder,2; wounding man in altercation, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee,1; and Texas, 1.

The report shows that there were fifty-one instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, seven of these occurring in northern and western states. The report is thorough and illuminating, giving in detail the history of the cases, those that were prevented as well as those that were lynched.

Georgia had only one lynching during the year which is an indication of the growth of anti-lynchng feeling in this state. The people of the south are not of the barbarous turn of temperament, but only in isolated cases do lynchings occur. The principal crime for which lynching is resorted to is that of rape, but in most instances, the law has been allowed to take its course. However, under such trying conditions, the brutality of the criminal is of such character it arouses the indignation of a red blooded people to an enraged temperament that becomes uncontrollable and only the life of the brute can satisfy an outraged people, whether they reside in the southern states or in states where racial equality is more seriously considered. So long as the crime of rape is committed, it may be expected that there will occur lynchings, but with the vanishing of such crimes, lynchings will not be resorted to, but the law will be allowed to take its course and the defendant given every legal opportunity to prove his innocense.—Athens Banner Herald

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Fayetteville, Tenn., News
January 3, 1935

Fifteen Persons Lynched In 1934

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930; 8 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

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The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas 1.

Shelbyville, Tenn. Times
January 3, 1935

Lynchings Decline During Year 1934

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. 8 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

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15 Lynchings Are Recorded For 1934

Black Dispatch

1/5/35

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Jan. 3. (ANP)—Principal R. R. Moton announced this week that according to the records kept at Tuskegee institute, which investigates every lynching which occurs thruout the country, there were 15 lynchings in the United States last year.

Oklahoma City
Okla

Despite the fact that this is fewer mob slayings than for 1933, the brutal bestiality exhibited by the bloor thirsty mobbists in several of the lynchings of 1934 have gone far toward advancing the possibility of a federal anti-lynching law. Proponents of the law saw it fail in the 1933 session of congress but have high hopes of its passage in the congress which is about to convene.

Dr. Moton's complete report says:

"I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

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Lynchings - 1934
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PASSAIC, N. J.
HERALD
JAN 2 1935

Lynching in 1934

Editor Herald-News: — Records compiled at Tuskegee Institute show that there were fifteen persons lynched in 1934. This is thirteen less than the number, 28, for 1933; seven more than the number, eight, or 1932. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

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Of the fifteen persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, four; rape, two; wounding man in altercation, one; associating with white woman, one; striking man, one; writing insulting letter, one; talking disrespectfully, one; insulting women, one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, one.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are: Alabama, one; Florida, two; Georgia, one; Kentucky, one; Louisiana, two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one, and Texas, one.

ROBERT R. MOTON,
President.

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama,
December 26.

Grand Rapids, Mich.
HERALD
JAN 1 1935

Record of Lynchings During Last Year

Editor of The Herald: I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934: I find according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the 28 for 1931; and 6 less than the 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

R. R. MOTON.
President, Tuskegee Normal
and Industrial Institute.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
MORNING UNION
JAN 1 1935

LYNCHINGS IN 1934

Total of 15 Is 13 Less Than in 1933, Tuskegee Institute Reports.

To the Editor of The Union.

Sir: I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number, 28, for 1933; seven more than the number, eight, for 1932; two more than the number, 13, for 1931; and six less than the number, 21, for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynching. Seven of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and three Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

R. R. MOTON,
President Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute.

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., Dec. 27, 1934.

SAVANNAH, GA.
NEWS
DEC 29 1934

THE ANNUAL LYNCHING RECORD

Although there were fifteen lynchings in 1934, compared with twenty-eight the previous year, according to figures announced by R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, the record is not one to be proud of. It had been hoped that Georgia might come through the year with no lynchings chalked up against it. Georgia kept its escutcheon untarnished during the first six months, but one dark blot was cast upon the tablet when autumn arrived. Other states in which a single lynching occurred were Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas. Mississippi topped the list with six while Florida and Louisiana each had two.

To the credit of efforts toward law enforcement in the South is the announcement that of the fifty-one instances in which officers prevented lynchings forty-four were in Southern states and seven in Northern and Western states. The supreme achievement along this line occurred recently at Shelbyville, Tenn., where state militiamen dispersed a frenzied mob bent upon lynching a negro who was being tried in a court of justice. The court house was burned by the mob, but the prisoner was safely transferred to Nashville.

ANNISTON, ALA.
STAR
DEC 31 1934

The Blot of Lynchings

No deed can more despicably mar the fair escutcheon of any commonwealth than that of lynching. No crime on the statute books quite reaches the heinousness of pagan savagery that is witnessed in a blood thirsty mob determined to "take the law into our hands."

Fifteen persons, all of them negroes, were dragged from jails or taken from officers of the law and shot, hung or burned to make a Roman holiday for groups of American citizens whose visions were so clouded, whose intellects were so befogged by unreasoning anger that will to kill overshadowed all else. Mississippi, where a large portion of the population is made up of negroes, led with six lynchings. Florida and Louisiana were second with two each, while Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas reported one each.

The Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, the great negro industrial school at Tuskegee, reports that there were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, five times with the use of bullets. No person can forget Aabama's case, in which a Tuscaloosa negro was taken from Tuscaloosa officers, shot and his body tossed into the woods. As is usually the case, the subsequent investigation failed to reveal the perpetrators of the crime.

One paragraph of the Tuskegee report lists the offenses charged. They were: Attempted assault, four; actual assault, two; murder, two; wounding a man during an altercation, one; association with a while woman, one; striking a man, one; writing an insulting letter, one; talking disrespectfully, one; insulting a woman, one; implicating others on a charge of stealing and selling turpentine, one.

If these reports are true, and we have every reason to believe they are correct, the reprehensible conduct of the mobs in some of these cases is reason for still greater shame. "Talking disrespectfully," "writing an insulting letter," termed justifiable grounds for slaying!

While we can find no sympathy for lynching, it is possible that this sore on civilization' sface may be healed, if not erddicated, by court reforms to make justice swifter and more certain. It doubtless is true that knowledge of long delays permitted by the law has contributed its share to the desire for immediate retribution. Considered from any viewpoint, it may be said in truth, the end of all lynchings is a consummation devoutly to be wished.

Carlysle, Ky., Mercury
January 3, 1935

Fifteen Persons, All Negroes, Lynched In 1934

R. R. Morton, president of Tuskegee Institute, has issued statistics compiled by the department of records and research of the institution, showing that 15 persons were lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the figure for 1933; 7 more than the number for 1932; 2 more than the number for 1931, and 6 less than the number for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched last year were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 others from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 negro men and 3 negro women were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letters, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; Texas, 1.

SYRACUSE, N. Y.
POST STANDARD

JAN 1 1935

Lynchings in 1934

To the Editor of The Post-Standard:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee institute that there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; seven more than the number eight for 1932; two more than the number 13 for 1931; and six less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men, 57 Negro men and three Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder, two; wounding man in altercation, one; asociating with white woman, one; striking man, one; writing insulting letter, one; talking disrepectfully, one; insulting women, one; implicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, one; Florida, two; Georgia, one; Kentucky, one; Louisiana, two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one, and Texas, one.

R. R. MOTON,
President Tuskee Normal and Industrial Institute. Tuskegee, Ala.

NEWS
Derry N.H.
JAN 4 1935

LYNCHINGS IN 1934.

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskagee Institute there were 15 persons lynched in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933; 7 more than the number 8 for 1932; 2 more than the number 13 for 1931; and 6 less than the number 21 for 1930. 8 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 7 of these were in Northern and Western States and 44 in Southern States. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 Negro men and 3 Negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 15 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women. 1; inplicating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

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JOURNAL
Orange, Mass
JAN 3 1935

FIFTEEN LYNCHED IN 1934

There were 15 persons lynched in the United States in 1934. This is 13 less than the number 28 for 1933, seven more than the number eight for 1932; two more than the number 13 for 1931; and six less than the number 21 for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails. There were 51 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in northern and western states and 44 in southern states. In 46 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men; 57 negro men and three negro women, were thus saved from death at the hands ef mobs. Of the 15 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, 4; rape, 2; murder, 2; wounding man in altercation, 1; associating with white woman, 1; striking man, 1; writing insulting letter, 1; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting woman, 10 improcating others in a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it. The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas 1.

BOSTON, MASS.
TRANSCRIPT

JAN 2 1935

'34's LYNCHING RECORD

To the Editor of the Transcript:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1934. I find according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were fifteen persons lynched in 1934. This is thirteen less than the number twenty-eight for 1933; seven more than the number eight for 1932; two more than the number thirteen for 1931 and six less than the number twenty-one for 1930. Eight of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outsde of jails.

There were fifty-one instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Seven of these were in Northern and Western States and forty-four in Southern States. In forty-six of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of seventy-four persons, fourteen white men; fifty-seven Negro men and three Negro women were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the fifteen persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attempted rape, four; rape, two; murder two; wounding man in altercation, one associating with white women, one; striking man, one; writing insulting letter one; talking disrespectfully, 1; insulting women, 1; implicating others in charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it, 1.

The States in which lynching occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, one; Florida, two Georgia, one; Kentucky, one; Louisiana two; Mississippi, six; Tennessee, one; and Texas, one.

R. R. MOTON,
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, Dec. 28.

INDEPENDENT
Lewisburg
JAN 1 1935 W. Va.

LYNCHINGS IN U. S.

During 1934 15 lynchings, all the victims being negroes, took place in the United States. There is some satisfaction in the statistics showing that was 13 less lynchings than in 1933. But it was too many at that. There were 51 instances where officers of the law prevented lynchings in 1934, which is encouraging. Seven of these frustrated attempts at mob murder were in northern and 44 in southern states. A total of 74 persons, 14 white men and 57 negro men and three negro women were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs. In Mississippi, which tops the list in the number of lynchings, six were put to death. Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Tennessee and Texas each had one lynching during the year and Florida two. Some of the offenses in which the death penalty was dealt out were for crimes which were the persons charged and put to death found guilty of the death penalty could not have been legally inflicted. It is to be hoped that lynching will be stamped out throughout the country. A mob bent on lynching in Shelbyville, Tenn., was recenaly taught a salutary lesson which may act as a deterrent in other southern states.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
MORNING UNION
JAN 1 1935

LYNCHINGS IN 1934

Total of 15 Is 13 Less Than in 1933 Tuskegee Institute Reports.

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The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 6; Tennessee, 1; and Texas, 1.

R. R. MOTON,
President Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute.

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., Dec. 27, 1934.

Lynchings - 1934
Side Lights.

Alabama

4875

Wrong Negro Is Chased Up Hill And Down Dale

Advertiser
5-30-34
Montgomery Ala.

CLANTON, ALA., May 29.—(Special)—Word went out over the section that an escaped negro convict had been seen in that vicinity.

Women barred the doors—children peered cautiously from behind closed windows; awe-stricken men went about their work a bit more solemnly Friday morning—an escaped convict was in their midst.

About middle of the morning, E. C. Collins, of the Collins Chapel community, espied a barefooted man hurrying across his field. His colored skin against the background of a dingy, white uniform and his apparent frightened manner marked him as a suspect.

Collins yelled for him to halt. But instead of halting, the negro increased the length and frequency of his steps. Collins started after him—a fast walk became a trot—then a run.

The race was on.

Through fields—over fences—in and out of swamps and ditches—the chase gained momentum. In almost every field, recruits joined in the pursuit. Running through a yard, the fleeing negro left a housewife almost hysterical, only adding pep and purpose to the chase.

After approximately six miles through plowed fields, the negro fell exhausted. His pursuers, panting, crowded about the victim, ready to take whatever means necessary to return the captured culprit to his punishment.

John Belle, feeble-minded negro of Clanton, lay on the ground, trembling. He didn't know why he ran—he only knew he was unable to run any farther.

NEGRO FREED ON NOL PROSSE MOVE

Man Who Escaped Death At Mobs' Hands At Liberty

Birmingham News
Birmingham Ala

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Elmore Clarke, who escaped death at the hands of a mob last August when he fell wounded beneath the bodies of his two slain companions while being taken from Tuscaloosa to Birmingham, was freed on a nol prosse Thursday and is believed to have left the state.

Clarke, with Dan Pippen, Jr., and A. T. Harden, had been indicted for attacking and slaying Miss Vaudine Maddox, 21, a Tuscaloosa County farm girl.

The three Negroes were being escorted by Tuscaloosa County officers when they were stopped just inside the Jefferson County line by a mob that lined up the trio and shot them down leaving them all for dead.

5-25-34.

Clarke later escaped and was arrested two nights later when a doctor was summoned to a Negro house to attend him. In the investigation of the lynching, Clarke corroborated the officers' story and was unable to identify any of the masked lynchers. He had been held in the Montgomery Jail for safekeeping.

The only two witnesses against Clarke were the two slain Negroes, which led to the nol prossing of the case.

NEGRO SURVIVOR OF MOB IS FREED

Lynch Victims Called Only Witnesses In Attack Case

5/25/34

TUSCALOOSA, Ala., May 24—(AP)—A Negro, charged with attacking a white woman and who narrowly escaped lynching by a mob last August, Thursday night was free and was believed to have left Alabama.

The Negro, Elmore (Honey) Clarke, severely wounded by a mob that killed two Negroes held with him, was released from the Montgomery County Jail Wednesday after Judge Henry B. Foster in Tuscaloosa Circuit Court had entered an order nol-prossing an indictment charging first degree murder and attack.

Clarke had been held in the Montgomery Jail for safe-keeping since he appeared here several weeks after the attempted lynching to testify before a Grand Jury investigating the case.

He had steadfastly denied any connection with the case, and District Solicitor Edward DeGraffenreid in entering the motion to dismiss the charge, said the only two witnesses to connect him with the case, Dan Pippen, Jr., and A. T. Harden, victims of the mob, were dead.

When he appeared before the Grand Jury, Clarke said he was unable to identify any members of the mob that lynched Harden and Pippen and attempted to lynch him.

The Negroes had been held here in connection with the slaying and attack on Miss Vaudine Maddox, 21, farm girl in a remote section of Tuscaloosa County.

Harden, the first taken into custody, officers said named Pippen as the attacker and slayer. Pippen, when arrested, laid the blame on Clarke.

Feeling became intense when the Negroes were called to trial Aug. 2, 1933, and attorneys employed by the International Labor Defense sought to intervene.

A hearing was held, and Judge Foster ruled the attorneys for the I. L. D. had not been retained. He then postponed the trial on motion of attorneys retained by families of the Negroes and those appointed by the court.

Feeling against the I. L. D. attorneys was so intense they were given a military escort to Birmingham, to protect them.

Two weeks later, acting on a tip that an effort would be made to lynch the Negroes, Tuscaloosa County deputies sheriff tried to spirit them away to Birmingham, but two carloads of men intercepted them just over the Jefferson County line.

Warning the officers to continue toward Birmingham, the mobsmen took the Negroes in their cars and turned back toward Tuscaloosa.

A searching party found the bodies of Harden and Pippen, riddled with bullets, in a copse of pines near Woodstock, several miles from where they had been taken from the officers.

Clarke, critically wounded, showed up some time later at the home of a Negro friend, who notified officers.

The Negro then told how, when the mob fired a volley at Pippen, Harden and himself shackled together, he had fallen beneath the other two.

The mob apparently believing all three dead left, and some hours later, Clarke broke the handcuffs from the arms of the dead Negroes and fled.

After he was apprehended, the Negro was taken to Kilby Prison in Montgomery where his wounds were treated, and then appeared before the Grand Jury. He was returned to Montgomery for safe-keeping, and the case dropped out of public interest until the announcement Thursday afternoon that charges pending against him had been dropped.

Court attaches made no announcement of the action taken until Clarke had ample opportunity to leave the state, if he so desired.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN IS FOUND HANGING IN BOX CAR HERE

Birmingham News
5-22-34
B'ham Alabama

County Investigator Says Case Is Suicide, But City Is Planning Probe

VICTIM DEAD AT LEAST A WEEK, OFFICERS SAY

Discolored Condition Of Skin Gives No Clue To Race Or Identity

(Photo illustrating this story will be found on Page 2).

Despite a suicide finding returned by County Investigator Evans in the death of an unidentified man, whose body was found hanging by the neck in a boxcar at Twentieth Street and Powell Avenue, city detectives announced after viewing the body that they would make an investigation to determine whether the man had been killed before being placed in the car.

Birmingham News
Birmingham Ala
5-22-34

The body was found suspended by a heavy wire with the feet barely clearing the floor, by Woodson Carter, Negro employe of the Southern Railway freight house. Carter made the discovery after persons in nearby offices had complained about an offensive odor.

Officers who viewed the body estimated the man had been dead at least a week. Due to the discolored condition of the skin, the officers were unable to agree whether the victim was white or a Negro. Search of his pockets failed to yield any clue that would establish his identity.

City Detective Sandefer expressed the belief that he was white, but attaches of Hillman Hospital said they believed he was a Negro.

Coroner Evans returned the suicide finding after visiting the scene. Sandefer, however, said the position of the body indicated the man was dead when hanged to the rafter of the car by a heavy wire.

The victim's head was in an upright position and his knees were slightly drawn up. Sandefer said that in his opinion the head would have rolled to one side if the man had not been dead when hanged there. The officer also pointed out that the man could have touched the floor with his toes had he been alive. The floor under the body indicated the man had bled profusely. A cap was in place on his head and his coat was on the floor behind the body.

Railroad officials said the car in which the body was found had been standing at that place since May 12. On that day it arrived at the freight house from Russellville with a shipment of cotton piece goods and was unloaded and moved to the spot where the man was found.

The door of the car next to the freight house was closed but the opposite door was open when the body was found.

Advertiser
6-1-34
Montgomery
Alabama

Argument Over Dollar For Hire Of Car Ends With Shooting At Pine Level

Sheriff's deputies early this morning were searching for "Son" Streety, negro, who late yesterday afternoon shot and probably fatally wounded Carl Johnson, 23-year-old paroled convict, near Pine Level, in the southern part of Montgomery County. Sheriff Sam Stearns shortly before midnight, was told by Johnson's attending physician that the youth would probably die before daylight.

Sheriff Stearns said the negro had apparently shot Johnson in the face with a shotgun because of being angered when the latter demanded $1 for the hire of his automobile.

Early yesterday afternoon, Sheriff Stearns was told, the negro engaged Johnson to ride him several places in the latter's car. When the trip was over, Johnson was said to have asked Streety for $1 to pay "for the gas."

Instead of giving him the money, as had been agreed, the negro refused, but a moment later walked into his home, obtained the dollar, and handed it to Johnson. As the latter started to drive away, however, Streety pointed a shotgun at him and was said to have shouted:

"You can go, but not with that dollar, Throw it back on the porch!"

Johnson, who had two boys as passengers, obeyed. The negro looked at the dollar but did not lower his gun.

"I think I ought to kill you anyhow," a witness said Streety shouted, after which he added, "and by---, I will!"

The negro allegedly took aim, despite the pleas of Johnson's and the two boys not to fire. He then fired the gun, the full load striking Johnson in the face. Sheriff Stearns said he understood that the negro, still clinging to the shotgun, walked in front of Johnson's machine and cranked it.

Advertiser
6-1-34
Montgomery
Alabama

"Here," he said, speaking to the horrified boy passengers. "Take this dollar and get some gas. Then take him to a doctor!"

As the youths sought assistance Streety fled. The boys, meantime, reported the shooting in Pine Level and a passing motorcyclist was flagged and urged to report the occurrence to the sheriff.

He arrived in Montgomery within half an hour. Sheriff Stearns, after obtaining bloodhounds from Kilby Prison, immediately went to the scene with Deputies Sellers, Mosley, Scogin, and Vaughn. The negro was trailed through the backwood for more than a mile, but the scent was lost. The officers said the print of hoofprints led them to believe that Streety had escaped on horseback.

Youth Shot By Negro May Die

Negro Boy Slain By Posse Here

PP

Wounds Inflicted By Men Searching For Killer Of Carl Johnson Are Fatal

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

A few hours after Carl Johnson, 23-year-old paroled convict, died at his mother's home near Pine Level as the result of having been shot in the face by "Son" Streety, negro, a 16-year-old negro, Otis Parham, was found yesterday morning in a ditch near Pine Level. Parham, who died yesterday afternoon, apparently had been shot in the back by one of three or more white men who had joined in the search for Johnson's slayer.

Sheriff Sam Stearns last night condemned the actions of those responsible for Parham's death and assigned two deputies to apprehend them. Sheriff Stearns said he presumed the youth had been shot by "some hot-headed person" who had become overwrought over Johnson's slaying. The sheriff said reports that some member of his department had shot the negro were untrue.

6-19-34

Shortly after being found in the ditch yesterday morning, Parham was reported to have told officers that he had been shot in the back by three men who came to his home seeking a brother of Johnson's slayer. The negro said the men struck him several times when he said he did not know the whereabouts of the man they sought and that when he broke away to flee he was shot in the back.

Johnson was shot in the face Sunday afternoon by Streety, deputies were told, after Johnson had demanded $1 of Streety for the rent of his automobile. Although Johnson and two boys begged the negro not to fire, witnesses said Streety cursed Johnson and fired a load of buckshot into his face.

Last night deputies were continuing their search for Streety and the slayers of Parham.

Johnson was sentenced in 1931 to Kilby Prison for the theft of an automobile, but was later paroled.

Meanwhile, Marshall Bland, Montgomery negro, surrendered to Deputy H. P. Masingill yesterday on a charge of fatally stabbing Armstead Oliver, negro

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HUNTSVILLE NEGRO HUNTED AFTER DUEL

Engages Publisher In Battle After Theft Charges

Post
7-18-34
Birmingham, Ala.

HUNTSVILLE, July 18.—(Special.)—Police today were searching for Newman Polk, 17-year-old negro, who was reported to have engaged in a gun battle yesterday with his employer, Charles D. Lane, Huntsville publisher. Mr. Lane accused the negro of stealing a revolver from his automobile.

Mr. Lane told police when he asked the negro to return the pistol the negro began firing from behind a tree. Both opened fire, but the shots missed their marks. Mr. Lane is one of the principals in the contested election for sheriff of Madison county.

Negro Slayer Of Posseman Dies

Advertiser
8-18-34
Montgomery, Alabama

Escaped Convict, Sought Three Days In Alabama, Is Killed At Carbon Hill

CARBON HILL, ALA., Aug. 17.—(AP)—Sam Holley, who jumped into the headlines this week as the new "bad man" of the west Alabama hills, was shot down today by a member of the posse he twice eluded in running battles.

Holley, an escaped negro convict, was slain as he reached for a gun after Tom Wakefield, Carbon Hill posseman, asked "what are you doing here, Sam?"

Wakefield had been informed of the negro's whereabouts at a small spring three miles from here, and "had the drop" on the negro who had killed one and seriously wounded two men since Tuesday night.

The gun Sam reached for but had no chance to fire was a pistol taken from Police Chief H. T. Beasley, of Winfield, Ala., who lies in a hospital in Amory, Miss., his condition critical, from knife wounds inflicted by the desperado, whom he tried to arrest.

This pistol, authorities said, was the weapon which fired the bullet which killed Ernest Long, of Winfield, and the one which wounded Deputy Sheriff Jack Sparks in the leg.

Only two cartridges remained in the gun. Holley also had a bullet in his left arm, believed to have been sent there by Sparks as he fell last night in the second encounter with the desperado. Long was slain in the first, Wednesday night.

Bloodhounds aided 500 residents of the countryside who tracked Holley relentlessly after Beasley had been hurt. They played a game of hide and seek, with the circle gradually narrowing until Holley was driven to the end of his trail at the spring, a wooded spot near McDade Cemetery.

Holley escaped from a State convict road camp near Winfield to embark upon his brief career in law defiance.

FLEEING NEGRO STABS OFFICER

Post

Winfield Police Chief Is Near Death; Posse On Convict's Trail

8-15-34
Birmingham,

WINFIELD, Aug. 15.—(Special.)—Posses scoured the woods in the district today for an escaped negro convict who critically stabbed Chief of Police H. F. Beasley last night.

Chief Beasley, suffering from a long wound in the abdomen and cuts in the shoulder, throat and head, was to receive a blood transfusion today at the hospital in Amory, Miss., where he was carried shortly after the attack.

His liver was pierced and three ribs were severed by the negro, who pulled an improvised dagger from his sleeve after he was arrested in the railroad yards here.

Negro Up For Murder

The negro, Sam Holley, escaped from a convict road crew near here yesterday morning. He was serving a sentence for murder in Russell county.

Chief Beasley, with J. W. Westbrook, night marshal, was watching the railroad yards, in the belief that the negro would try to catch a freight train. Chief Beasley came on the negro while Mr. Westbrook was in another section of the yards.

Eludes Possemen

The negro submitted to arrest but a moment later launched his attack. Chief Beasley called for help, but the negro had inflicted the wounds, taken the officer's pistol and escaped before Mr. Westbrook reached the scene.

Several hundred citizens joined the futile search. Bloodhounds lost the trail near a negro house.

Police in Birmingham, Memphis, Meridian and other cities were notified.

BULLET RIDDLED BODY OF NEGRO DISCOVERED

Post
Birmingham

Coroner Suspects Bootleggers Quarrel In Slaying

Riddled with bullets, the body of Kelley Hill, New Castle negro, was found in McDonald's Hollow near Republic highway early today. The negro apparently had been dead 24 hours.

Hill's wife told sheriff's deputies that a white man representing himself as an officer came to their home at 2 a.m. Tuesday and told Hill he was under arrest in an assault case. Hill left with the man, she said.

Coroner Gip Evans returned a verdict of unlawful homicide and sheriff's deputies began a search for the slayer. The coroner expressed belief that the slaying was the result of a bootleggers' quarrel.

$100 REWARD POSTED FOR NEGRO'S SLAYER

Post
8-17-34
Birmingham,
Ala.

Motive in Miner's Murder Not Yet Determined

Reward of $100 for the arrest and conviction of the slayer of Kelley Hill, negro, member of Newcastle coal mine local of the United Mine Workers of America, was offered by that organization today.

Hill was found fatally shot Wednesday off the Republic road, about five miles west of Birmingham. J. S. Eubank, president of the local, said that the motive for the slaying is not known.

FEAR IS FELT FOR LIFE OF WINFIELD CHIEF OF POLICE

Birmingham News

Officer Badly Stabbed While Attempting To Arrest Man

8-15-34

POSSE BEATS BUSHES OVER MARION COUNTY

Birmingham
Alabama.

Attacker, However, May Have Boarded Train For This City, View

As a posse of citizens and officers beat the bushes in Marion County Wednesday seeking the Negro who inflicted numerous knife wounds on H. T. Beasley, 47, Winfield, Ala., chief of police, Birmingham officers were also on the lookout for the attacker upon receipt of word from Winfield officers that the Negro may have boarded a train for Birmingham.

Beasley was cut about the neck, head and stomach by the Negro as he attempted to arrest him on the railroad tracks, near Winfield, Tuesday night.

Beasley and J. W. Westbrook, night policeman, were scouting the railroad tracks seeking the Negro, who escaped from a convict road construction camp a mile and a half from Winfield.

The men had separated and were about 150 yards apart when Beasley came upon the Negro. He searched him but failed to detect a knife in the Negro's sleeve. As they started for the car, the Negro attacked Beasley with the knife, inflicting wounds that hospital attendants at Amory, Miss., said might prove fatal.

The Negro then took Beasley's pistol and fled.

Marion County officers immediately formed a posse and all Tuesday night and early Wednesday more than 500 persons, aided by bloodhounds, sought the Negro in the swamps and hollows near Winfield.

Officers informed Birmingham police that a freight and passenger train passed through Winfield, en route to Birmingham, during the night and said it was possible the Negro had hopped one of them and was now in Birmingham.

Possè Member Slain By Negro Fugitive

Constitution
8-16-34
Atlanta, Ga.

WINFIELD, Ala., Aug. 15.—(AP)—Firing on a posse which sought him for the stabbing last night of Chief of Police H. T. Beasley, of Winfield, an escaped negro convict named Thompson, tonight shot and killed Ernest Long, 30, a member of the posse, and made his escape.

The force of searchers was immediately increased and bloodhounds were brought in by officers seeking the negro. Citizens of Marion and Fayette counties joined with officers in the hunt.

The negro stabbed and critically wounded Beasley last night when the police chief sought to arrest him and then escaped with the officer's gun.

Negro Slayer Is Object Of Search

Advertiser
8-17-34
Montgomery,
Ala.

WINFIELD, ALA., Aug. 16.—(AP)—Sam Holley, an escaped negro convict who killed a member of a posse which sought his arrest for stabbing the Winfield police chief, today was the object of a widespread hunt by officers and citizens of two Alabama counties.

Ernest Long, 30, was shot to death as he approached Holley's hiding place last night with other possemen. The chase for Holley started after he had stabbed Chief of Police H. T. Beasley when the officer was about to arrest him. Beasley's condition is described as fair.

A girl who had discovered where Holley was hiding led the posse to the place. Officers believed Long was shot with the pistol Holley had taken from the officer when he was stabbed Tuesday night.

The authorities of Marion and Fayette Counties, in northwest Alabama, were joined by citizens in the hunt after Long was killed.

AMORY, MISS., Aug. 16.—(AP)—Physicians today said Chief of Police H. T. Beasley, of Winfield, Ala., who was stabbed by an escaped negro convict Tuesday night, had a fighting chance to recover, although his condition was still critical. He was stabbed in the abdomen.

Lynchings - 1934
Side Lights.

Alabama.

4889

DEATH BRINGS NEGRO'S WILD FLIGHT TO END

Post 8-17-34 Birmingham Alabama

Killer Cornered In Creek Bottom And Shot Down By Posseman

BODY PUT ON EXHIBIT

Truck Parades Streets Carrying Corpse Of Dead Desperado

CARBON HILL, Aug. 17.—(Special.)—Sam Holley, negro convict who killed one man and wounded two others following his escape from a road crew near Winfield, was shot to death as possemen narrowed a circle about him in a creek bottom near here today.

Tom Wakefield, of Carbon Hill, brought the negro down with a discharge from a double-barreled shotgun as the fugitive reached for his pistol.

The body was taken immediately to Winfield, where the negro Tuesday went berserk following his escape from a road camp and stabbed Chief of Police H. F. Beasley.

Body Displayed

The body was loaded on a truck and hauled up and down the main street of the town. Two of the posse members held the body up so the crowd of several hundred could get a good view.

Among those viewing the body were relatives of Chief Beasley, who is recovering in an Amory, Miss., hospital, and kinspeople of Ernest Long, employe of the Alabama Public Utilities Co., who was killed by the negro Wednesday.

Learning that the killer was in the Crampton creek bottom, two miles south of Carbon Hill, a posse of 200 surrounded the woods.

They closed in cautiously. Finally Wakefield, who was off to himself, sighted the negro slinking through a canebrake. Wakefield said that he called to the negro to throw his gun away.

'Had Death On Him'

"Instead the negro tried to draw his pistol," Wakefield said. "I shot him, the discharge taking effect in the chest and neck."

The negro, known by an alias of Jim Thomas, was sent up from Phenix City for murder. He was 26 years old.

Negroes hereabouts said the convict killer "had the death on him," meaning that he was determined to kill or be killed.

The hunt for the killer turned here after Deputy Jack Sparks was shot in the leg by the fugitive between Kansas and Carbon Hill last night.

Possemen killed a negro near Winfield yesterday in their hunt for Holley. Deputy J. H. Hill said Burley Guyton, negro farmer, was shot down by Harvey Ramsur when the negro drew a knife on him after promising to show Ramsur and other possemen the hiding place of the hunted negro.

Alabama Negro Kills Posseman

WINFIELD, ALA., Aug. 15.—(AP)—Firing on a posse which sought him for the stabbing last night of Chief of Police H. T. Beasley, of Winfield, an escaped negro convict named Sam Holley, tonight shot and killed Ernest Long, 30, a member of the posse and made his escape.

The force of searchers was immediately increased and bloodhounds were brought in by officers seeking the negro. Citizens of Marion and Fayette Counties joined with officers in the hunt.

The negro stabbed and critically wounded Beasley last night when the Police Chief sought to arrest him and then escaped with the officer's gun.

A widespread search was launched for the negro and tonight one of the posses was led to the negro's hiding place by a girl who had discovered his whereabouts.

The negro was believed to have slain Long with the pistol taken from Chief Beasley. Long was shot once through the heart, dying instantly.

Chief Beasley was taken to an Amory, Miss., hospital where his condition tonight was described as fair.

The entire Winfield section was aroused by the stabbing of the Police Chief and following the slaying of Long, every ablebodied citizen of Winfield and neighboring communities joined in the hunt for the negro.

Lynchings - 1934
Side Lights.

Arkansas,

4890

Arkansas Posse Seeks Negro After Assault

MARION, Ark., July 2[illegible].—(AP)—Sheriff Howard Curlin, of Crittenden county, said tonight a posse of officers is searching for two negroes accused of criminally assaulting a white woman near West Memphis, Ark., today.

Sheriff Curlin said the woman was a tourist en route from "some place in Minnesota" to Ensley, Ala.

"With another woman, she was camping near the Harahan bridge, across the Mississippi river from Memphis," Sheriff Curlin declared. "The negroes robbed the women of $9 and then assaulted one of them."

[illegible]

Lynchings-1934

Side Lights.

Connecticut.

4891

POSSE TAKES TRAIL OF SLAYER OF TWO

Farmer, Believed Mad, Shoots Men And Wounds Woman

By United Press.

WOLCOTT, Conn., June 25.—State troopers led bloodhounds and a posse through woods in this section today, seeking John Crow, a sullen, middle-aged farmer who killed two neighbors and wounded a woman yesterday.

Post 6-25-34 Birmingham Ala.

The victims were Clarence Yuskis, 22, Julius Karvauskas, 40, a hired hand on the Yuskis farm, both of whom were slain, and Mrs. George Yuskis, mother of the dead youth.

A few moments after the attack by the apparently mad farmer, scores of neighbors armed with rifles, shotguns and farm tools started on his trail. They found his abandoned automobile not far from the Yuskis homestead and believed he had taken refuge in a dense wooded area.

Yesterday Crow drove to the Yuskis home. Carrying a rifle he exchanged a few words with young Yuskis. Without warning he fired.

Karvauskas shielded himself behind a door, but a shot through the panel killed him.

D.C.

Lynchings-1934
Side Lights.

4892

WASHINGTON, D. C.
HERALD
AUG 29 1934

MOB ATTEMPTS TO LYNCH MAN HELD BY POLICE

Bandit Captured After Raid on Grocery; Officers Foil Enraged Downtown Crowd

Mob fury was aroused in downtown Washington last night after three Winchester colored bandits staged an attempted holdup of a grocery store in the 1000 block of Twelfth St. N. W., and narrowly missed killing a traffic policeman in trying to escape.

More than 50 members of the crowd of 200 which gathered around one of the bandits after his capture in a park at Eleventh Street and Massachusetts Avenue made an angry attempt to seize the captive.

Several in the crowd shouted:

"Let's have him—lynch him!"

They rushed the police but were fought off.

The bandits attempted to hold up John Khosrofian, proprietor of the grocery store at 10:30 last night. According to police the three entered the store with drawn guns and demanded "the dough."

As Khosrofian was turning to open the cash registed, a patron of the store, G. W. Thompson dashed into the street yelling:

"Help, there's a holdup here!"

A crowd of more than 200 quick gathered and the three bandits fled down Eleventh street with the infuriated mob close behind.

Cornered in the park, one of the bandits fired three shots, one of which smashed the goggles of traffic policeman G. W. Coleman. The other two escaped.

The captured bandit, who gave his name as Edward Jackson, colored, 21, of Winchester, Va., was subdued by Coleman and Policeman R. E. Burton.

Police reserves were called as the crowd hemmed in the two policeman and the captive when they attempted to put Jackson in a patrol wagon.

The prisoner was lodged under heavy guard at police headquarters and will await charges of assault with a deadly weapon today, police said.

Lynchings-1934
Side Lights.

(2)

Florida

4893

Negro Missing After Being Abducted By White Men

Advertiser

1-21-34

CLEARWATER, FLA., Jan. 20.—(AP)—Police today said Elisah Sandlin, negro chef, was reported to have been seized by four white men last night, forced into an automobile, and has not since been seen.

The negro's wife told police the men took her husband, put him in a car and drove away, the abduction occurring shortly after 8:30 p.m. She could not describe the men.

Police said the negro had written a white waitress at the hotel where he worked a note, suggesting that she meet him. Several other girls, police said, have lately quit their jobs at the hotel because of the negro's advances.

Montgomery, Ala.

Florida Negro Chef Reported Abducted

1-21-34

CLEARWATER, Fla., Jan. 20.—(AP)—Elisah Sandlin, negro chef, was reported seized by four white men last night, forced into an automobile, and has not since been seen, police revealed late today.

The negro's wife told police that the men took her husband, put him in a car and drove away, the abduction occurring shortly after 8:30 p. m. She could not describe the men, neither could she give the car's license number.

Police said the negro had written a white waitress at the hotel where he worked a note, suggesting that she meet him. Several other girls, police said, have lately quit their jobs at the hotel because of the negro's advances.

Police are investigating.

Atlanta, Ga.

Missing Florida Man Is Reported Taken By Mob

BARTOW, FLA., April 17.—(AP)—Circulars scattered over Polk County today claimed Frank Norman, missing from his Lakeland home since Wednesday night, had been abducted by a fascist lynch mob.

The pamphlets were signed by the "international labor defense, Florida branch" and were addressed to "the working men and women" of Lakeland.

Denying Norman an agitator, as had been alleged by officers, the circulars called upon working people to protest to the Governor.

Sheriff Chase of Polk County has received a telegram and a letter from labor organizations accusing him and the Ku Klux Klan of complicity in the man's disappearance. He declared, however, he has made every effort to locate Norman.

The letter was signed "International Workers Order, 644, Jacksonville," and the telegram, "the International Labor Defense, New York."

A companion told police Norman was lured from his home by three men, one of whom represented himself as Sheriff Chase.

Advertiser

Montgomery

Jerry Williams and Willie Holzendorf, negroes, were accused of sending a letter of extortion to L. L. Stuckey, mayor of Pahokee, Fla., and this, according to Mayor Stuckey, is his method of extracting the truth from Williams, whom he now believes innocent.

Commercial Appeal

First, the mayor and friends took Williams to an Everglades swamp, where a shallow grave had been dug. They stripped him naked, made him get into the grave, pointed revolvers at him, told him he had one minute to live unless he told the truth. Williams repeated his story that a white man had given him the letter to mail to Mayor Stuckey.

4-29-34

Williams was then taken to the West Palm Beach sheriff's office, and there, in the presence of deputy sheriffs and a representative of the United States Department of Justice, Williams "was placed in a chair wired so as to give a slight shock, good for anybody, to the person sitting in the chair." The "good for anybody" is a pleasant touch.

Memphis, Tenn.

Mayor Stuckey says Williams thought he was being electrocuted. And was so frightened he "changed color from black to ashen, but still refused to change his original story." Mayor Stuckey told Judge Ritter of the federal court that he believed Williams was telling the truth, because he really thought he was about to be killed.

Judge Ritter expressed disapproval of these energetic, ingenious methods of compelling an innocent man to confess guilt. Many will wonder what would happen if a group of negroes should do to a white man what these white men did to the negro, Williams.

A suit for financial damages, that might be profitable, is probably the only satisfaction that the tortured negro can expect.

'Hot Seat', Buried Alive Methods Used For Wringing Confession From Innocent Florida Men

Courier 5-5-34 Pittsburgh, Pa.

PALM BEACH, Fla., May 3—According to reports from Pahokee, Fla., "Southern Justice" takes another wild fling toward excelling its present flattering record for inhuman cruelties and flagrant iniquities, when it attempted to force a confession from Jerry Williams and Willie Holzendorf, accused of sending a letter of extortion to L. L. Stuckey, mayor of Pahokee.

As usual, the mayor and his friends omitted the formalities of court procedure. Arthur Brisbane in his column, "Today," relates the details as follows:

"First, the mayor and friends took Williams to an everglade swamp, where a shallow grave had been dug. They stripped him naked, made him get into the grave, pointed revolvers at him, told him he had one minute to live unless he told the truth. Williams repeated his story that a white man had given him the letter to mail to Mayor Stuckey.

"Williams was then taken to the West Palm Beach sheriff's office, and there, in the presence of deputy sheriffs and a representative of the United States Department of Justice, was 'placed in a chair wired so as to give a slight shock, *good for anybody*, to the person sitting in the chair.' The 'good for anybody' is a pleasant touch.

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"Judge Ritter expressed disapproval of these energetic, ingenious methods of compelling an innocent man to confess guilt. Many will wonder what would happen if a group of Negroes should do to a white man what these white men did to the Negro Williams.

"A suit for financial damages, that might be profitable, is probably the only satisfaction that the tortured Negro can expect."

Mr. Brisbane avoided another opportunity to speak out against such cruelties of injustice.

Arthur Brisbane Says

BY ARTHUR BRISBANE

EDITOR'S NOTE: The opinions expressed by Arthur Brisbane in this column are not necessarily in conformity with the views of The Age-Herald, its management and ownership, and The Age-Herald assumes no responsibility for Mr. Brisbane's views. He is the most highly paid and most widely read editorial writer in the world. This column is printed in this newspaper because The Age-Herald believes its readers will appreciate this opportunity of following Mr. Brisbane's comment on widely diversified subjects.

IT IS good news that railroads and employes have arranged their differences, particularly good news that workers will have restored the 10 per cent cut in wages. It will be done slowly, in three advances, beginning July 1, but better slowly than never.

Railroad unions, including in their membership the finest type of American citizenship, sober, careful, patient, industrious conductors, engineers and others, set a good example to labor in their patience and unwillingness to delay return of prosperity.

Railroads, perhaps the greatest sufferers from the depression, fortunately find conditions improving. In March, 1934, they took in more than $30,000,000 as against $5,500,000 in March last year. For the first quarter of this year the net operating income was $65,000,000 as against $17,000,000 a year ago.

* * *

Cleveland, with a strike of gasoline salesmen and a taxicab strike, may be compelled to "get a horse."

Steel workers strike in Birmingham, trained nurses in Chicago, automobile workers leave their jobs for assorted reasons at a time when employers might sell cars. Alabama coal miners have concluded one strike that made 21,000 idle and threatened idleness for thousands more.

Could not workmen find a way to fight each other and their employers without necessarily fighting the public? If the public possessed intelligence, it would enforce some such system. Unfortunately, intelligence in its own protection seems to be one thing of which the public has none.

St. Augustine, Fla., exhibits an alligator named "Old Ponce" that seems to have found the spring that Ponce de Leon was looking for. He is about 900 years old and was 500 years old when Florida was discovered by Ponce de Leon.

"Old Ponce" sits as quiet as Fafner, showing no sign of life until food comes. Then he is as vigorous and youthful as his youngest great-great-great alligator grandson, 50 times removed. He weighs 1,200 pounds and eats 75 pounds of meat at one meal.

Except for the difference in age, he is not unlike certain prosperous gentlemen that live at Palm Beach or Newport, have yachts and private cars and imagine they really amount to something as they eat, drink and produce nothing.

* * *

Jerry Williams and Willy Holzendorf, Negroes, were accused of sending a letter of extortion to L. L. Stuckey, mayor of Pahokee, Fla., and this, according to Mayor Stuckey, is his method of extracting the truth from Williams, whom he now believes innocent.

Age Herald

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4-30-34

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Birmingham, Ala.

*

Judge Ritter expressed disapproval of these energetic, ingenious methods of compelling an innocent man to confess guilt.

A suit for financial damages, that might be profitable, is probably the only satisfaction that the tortured Negro can expect.

MOB BURNS BODY OF MAN WHO SHOT SHERIFF, CLAIM

Courier
5-19-34

GAINESVILLE, Fla., May 17—Following an exchange of shots which resulted in death for both Henry Johnson of Lacross and a white deputy sheriff of the same town, the body of Johnson was forcibly taken from the keeping of Charles J. Latimer, mortician of Gainesville, and burned by a white mob in the woods nearby.

Johnson is said to have resented the brutal treatment of the deputy sheriff and to have attempted to defend himself from the latter's gun. In the shooting which followed both were killed instantly.

To date there have been no steps taken by the authorities to investigate the inhuman burning of Johnson's body, although a white man is said to have brought the ribs of the colored man to town and displayed them on the Courthouse Square.

Members of Johnson's family state that white men in the community ordered them to leave thei home, and they have done so There are eight children in the family, all less than 10 years of age

Florida

Lynchings-1934
Side Lights.

4894

No Trace of Labor Defense Organizer Kidnapped by KKK

Link Authorities to the Attack on Frank Norman

Daily Worker

LAKELAND, Fla., April 16.—No trace has yet been found of Frank Norman, International Labor Defense organizer here and former leader of the Citrus Workers Union, who was kidnapped by Ku Klux Klan thugs Wednesday night.

4-17-34

Further details of the kidnapping revealed today showed the definite link between the kidnappers and local authorities.

New York

The kidnap gang which called at Norman's home stated they were Sheriff W. W. Chase and deputies, and ordered him to come with them to identify a Negro they said had been lynched on the Bartow Rd. They took with them also Ben Surrency, a worker living in the same house, but released him before leaving town, training their pistols on him and ordering him to run.

The car bearing the kidnappers proceeded up the road, and Surrency has reported that he heard a shot from it before it got out of ear-shot.

Norman had been very active in organizing protest against the murder of James Franklin, Negro citrus picker, by police and a local landlord, in Polk County.

Sheriff Chase, who has denied he was one of the kidnappers, is concentrating on making statements to the effect that he is looking very hard for Norman and his kidnappers.

Lynchings-1934
Side Lights.

General

4888

7 Negroes Are Butchered In South In 1 Day

Daily Worker
3-17-34
New York N.Y.

BULLETIN

NEW YORK—With two Negroes legally murdered in Georgia yesterday, and two in North Carolina, the legalized butchery of three in Mississippi brought the total of legal lynchings in one day to seven in three southern states. This mass butchery was surpassed only on Feb. 9, when nine Negroes were legally lynched in three southern states: five in Alabama, three in Texas and one in Arkansas.

* * *

HERNANDO, Miss., March 16.—The legalized butchery of 3 young Negro workers, victims of the traditional "rape" frame-up by which the southern lynch lords seek to justify their violent suppression of the Negro masses, was carried out this morning in a holiday atmosphere as thousands of white merchants and landowners poured into Hernando from the surrounding country.

The legal mass lynching was witnessed by Clyde Collins, merchant of Holly Springs, Miss., father of the alleged "rape" victim who, with the local authorities engineered the frame-up and was permitted as "a reward" for "permitting the law to take its course" to be present in the death chamber to gloat over the triple hanging. A bill passed by the Senate to permit him to spring the trap was killed by a House committee as a result of the nation-wide protests against the atrocious measure.

The hangings are the second mass legal lynching of Negroes this year. On Feb. 9 nine were legally lynched in a single day in three southern states; five in Alabama, 3 in Texas and one in Arkansas. The victims of today's legalized butchery were Ernest McGhee, 23, Johnny Jones, 23, and Isaac Howard, 25.

Daily Worker
B'ham, Ala.

Georgia

4709

Lynchings-1934
Side Lights.

Insane Man Lynched By Georgia Mob

Defender
9-8-34
Chicago Ill

SAVANNAH, Ga., Sept. 7.—In one of the most vicious crimes ever recorded in this state, long noted for unprovoked and malicious assaults on innocent members of the Race, George White, a weak-minded man and known to have been a former inmate of an asylum, was taken nude from Bryan and Liberty county officers last Saturday night by a masked mob which not only lynched him but secreted the body so that it could not even be given a Christian burial.

Charged with an "attempted" assault on a young white woman on a lonely road in Bryan county, White was arrested and was in the custody of the officers who were taking him to Savannah when the mob seized the helpless man, threw him into an auto and sped off into the woods with him.

Mentally Weak

Race residents in the county who knew White declare he was mentally incompetent and that he would often hide in the bushes on the roadside to playfully frighten passers by, but that he was harmless. The alleged victim of the assault declared to police that she was dragged from her auto by White after he had first blocked the road with the trunk of a tree.

Other reports indicate that the young woman was simply accosted by White, while playing one of his imbecile pranks and that the lynching of a crazy man by a mob was the most heinous crime ever chalked up against the citizenry of the state.

White, still dazed from the hot pursuit of the police, was captured in the woods adjacent to the place where the "crime" was supposed to have been committed and was taken in custody by Sheriff H. G. White and Deputy Sheriff Daring, of Bryan county. Immediately after their arrival at the jail in Liberty county, the man search of the mob for the half-witted man began to center on the jail and it was decided to remove him to Savannah for safe keeping.

The officers, according to reports, were in Sheriff Clark's car with the prisoner when at a point on the Coastal Highway a body of masked men armed with guns seized White, threw him in an auto and sped away with him into the woods.

All trace of the mob and their victim has been lost and officers who took up the trail declare that after an all-night search White's body could not be found. Race residents throughout the counties near the scene of the outrage are said to be forming secret posses in an attempt to find the victim.

NEGRO IS HUNTED BY BURKE POLICE

Telegraph

Swamps Are Scoured for 18-Year-Old Boy Charged With Shooting Constable Stokes

9-26-34
Macon Ga

WAYNESBORO, Ga., Sept. 25. (AP)—Track dogs, followed by a posse of citizens, scoured nearby swamps today in search of Albert Mobley, 18-year-old Negro, who allegedly shot and dangerously wounded Wilbur Stokes, Burke county constable, late yesterday afternoon.

Although the posse had been conducting an all-night search, no trace of the Negro had been found at noon today but authorities expressed confidence he would be located before dark.

The shooting occurred as the men were coming from Girard, Ga., where Mobley had been placed under arrest for attempted robbery. The officer, accompanied by J. C. Brigham, Waynesboro man, went to Girard and took the Negro in custody.

Not believing that the Negro was in any way dangerous, Stokes placed him on the back seat of the automobile and did not handcuff him.

The two men were in the front seat when Mobley, according to Brigham, opened fire, striking the officer just below the heart. Brigham rendered first aid while the Negro escaped. The officer was then taken to a hosptial here and later to Augusta where the bullet was removed.

Athens Ga. Times
Aug-12-1934

Mob Action Neared As Tenant Shoots 3

Crazed Fa[illegible] As They Come To Collect Rent

CHICKAMAUGA, Ga., Aug. 11.—(UP) — Shots from the gun of an apparently temporarily deranged tenant here this afternoon killed two men, one of them a deputy sheriff, critically wounded another, and almost caused mob action.

The deputy sheriff, Bob Alexander, 50 was killed almost instantly by J. L. Morrison, the tenant, when he went to arrest him after he had fatally wounded A. C. Abercrombie, 40, well known property owner, and critically injured Jim Terry, who was accompanying Abercrombie.

Victor Wilbanks, Chattanooga, Tenn., a witness to the shooting, told officers Marrison took up a gun and shot Abercrombie and Terry in the back when they turned to leave him after they had called to collect rent. There had been no quarrel, Wilbanks said.

Sheriff J. C. Keown, appearing just in time to arrest Morrison before an angry mob of several hundred persons arrived, carried him to a county jail at Lafayettc. The mob, the sheriff said, was armed with rifles and shotguns and had planned to storm Morrison's home and get him.

Morrison, it was recalled, had been injured in a mine accident and some times had short spells of insanity.

M'INTOSH NEGRO'S BODY IS SOUGHT

Telegraph

Sheriff Poppell Reports James Curtis Shot, Dragged From His Home by Mob

10-10-34

DARIEN, Ga., Oct. 9 (AP)—Officers today sought the body of a Negro who was taken from his home by a mob while he and his wife pleaded that he be killed in his own house so a funeral could be held.

Macon, Ga

Sheriff A. S. Poppell said the mob of 12 white and two Negro men, all masked, went to the home of Curtis James, near Jones, Ga., last Sunday and wounded him by firing through the window.

"this is one body the undertaker "his is one body the undertaker won't get," and dragged the wounded Negro away in spite of his own and his wife's pleas that he be allowed to die at home.

Sheriff Poppell said no trace had been found of the body today and he believed it had been burned.

Two Negroes have been arrested in connection with the lynching and the sheriff said he expected to make additional arrests.

Telegraph

While there was no announced motive for the lynching the sheriff said James was arrested several weeks ago on a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it to Jacksonville. He was acquitted at his trial but implicated several white

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HUNT FAILS TO FIND DARIEN NEGRO'S BODY

DARIEN, Ga., Oct. 10.—(AP)—A two-day search by Sheriff A. S. Poppell and other McIntosh county officers today had failed to locate the body of Curtis James, negro shot in his home 12 miles from here early Sunday by masked men.

James, mortally wounded, was taken away from his home, the sheriff said, despite the pleas of his wife that he be left there to die. The sheriff said he now was convinced the body was burned after he had completed a search of the surrounding territory.

Two negroes were arrested in connection with the crime and are being held in jail here. Sheriff Poppell said he had evidence of their connection with the death of James.

The sheriff said the masked band of 12 white men and two negroes, all wearing masks, went to the James home and shot him through a window. He said they entered the house and announced "this is one body the undertaker won't get."

10-11-34
Darien Ga

Lynchings-1934
Side Lights.

See: Cards-
Killings-Ga.

Georgia

4895

3 Negroes Murdered by Georgia Lynchers; Two Missing, 5 Beaten

Daily Worker
1-12-34
New York, N.Y.

Authorities Arresting Negroes; Take No Step Against Lynch Gang

PROTESTS URGED

Demand End of Terror Preparing for Defense!

NEW YORK.—The weekly "New Masses" publishes today the following telegram from its correspondent, Erskine Caldwell, revealing a murderous lynch terror in Georgia in which three Negroes already have been murdered, five beaten, with several others missing and 14 homes of Negro workers burned.

* * *

By ERSKINE CALDWELL

AUGUSTA, Ga., Jan. 11.—The discovery of the mutilated bodies of two Negroes near Bartow, Georgia, last week, unreported in the daily press, has revealed a reign of mob rule that in a month's time has cost the lives of three Negroes and the suspected deaths of two others. The dead are Ernest Bell, Will Walker, and an unidentified Negro. At least five others have been severely beaten and fourteen houses have been burned.

Lynchers Free, Negroes Jailed

The body of Ernest Bell was found in a well, where he had been thrown after his body was mutiliated. The body of the unidentified man was found in a fallow field with numerous bullets in the head and with the throat cut. Walker died in an Augusta hospital, after being fatally injured by a Bartow policeman. According to a corner's jury, the other two men were killed by parties unknown.

Sam Outlaw and Blevin Williams, Negroes of Bartow, are now being held in the Jefferson County jail in Louisville by Sheriff J. J. Smith to prevent threatened lynching.

There is a persistent report locally that two other men, both Negroes, have been lynched and their bodies thrown into a creek near Bartow. Sheriff Smith states that he has been unable to find the bodies. C. S. Bryant, a well-known farmer living in the vicinity of Bartow, was threatened by the mob, when he attempted to remove Will Walker to the hospital. Bryant appealed to Sheriff Smith, and two days after being wounded Walker was taken to Augusta, where he died the following day.

When the body of Walker was brought back to Jefferson County, Sheriff Smith placed it in the county jail for safekeeping. Members of the Bartow mob came to Louisville and demanded that they be allowed to see the body. Sheriff Smith states that when he was convinced that the members of the mob merely wished to identify it as being that of Will Walker, he allowed them to view it. The spokesman for the mob stated that they made the trip to the jail for the purpose of assuring themselves that Walker was dead.

No Action Against Lynchers

According to Sheriff Smith no action will be taken against members of the mob unless further lynching takes place, because no white man can be found who will testify against members of a mob in a case involving Negroes. He points to the action of the coroner's jury which investigated the cases of the deaths of three men, and which returned the verdict usual in such cases locally—"Death at the hands of parties unknown." Sheriff Smith has promised to appeal to the Governor of the state for militia to protect the lives of those Negroes in Bartow who are alive today, if he thinks additional lynching will take place. At the present time, however, there can be found no evidence to show that the mob intends to cease activities.

Reign of Terror Spreading

The fact that no arrests have been made has been explained here as being due to the conditions that make it extremely difficult to convict a white man in a local court on a Negro's word.

This reign of terror which began in Bartow during the early part of December, and which reached its present state during the first week of January, has spread over Jefferson County. Negroes in all sections of the county express fear for their lives. Feeling has grown intense. Sheriff Smith states that he intends to take Sam Outlaw to the South Carolina state line and release him to flee for his life.

Outlaw cannot at present stand on his feet because of the injuries he received at the hands of the Bartow mob. Local Negroes do not believe that the removal of Outlaw will appease the mob, however, and they feel certain that further lynchings will take place.

Local Papers Cover Up Attacks on Negroes

The weekly newspapers of this county, in which are located the towns of Bartow, Louisville, Wadley, and Wrens, have made no mention of the deaths of these men. The daily papers of the state have failed to report the actions of the mob, and the news-gathering agencies have made no effort to report the situation to their members in other states. No local correspondents for the dailies can be found who have made reports, perhaps because of a rule in the book of instructions sent to local correspondents by the daily newspapers of Georgia: **"If a white man is murdered, telegraph it in; if a Negro is murdered, mail it in."**

Bartow is a town of four hundred persons, about half of whom are Negroes. It is located in a rich farming and lumbering district. Its institutions for white people consist of a high school and four churches—two Baptist, two Methodist.

* * *

New Masses Editors Wire Protest

NEW YORK.—The New Masses has sent the following protest telegram to Gov. Eugene Talmadge at Atlanta, Ga.:

"Our correspondent, Erskine Caldwell, reports reign of terror against Negroes in Jefferson and other counties of Georgia by a gang of 20 white men. Three killed, five beaten, others missing, 14 houses burned. Local authorities refuse to act. The New Masses calls this situation, threatening a Southern St. Bartholomew massacre, to your attention, and expects you to take action to end the lynch terror and punish the lynchers and afford protection to Mr. Caldwell, now in Georgia as our correspondent. We are publishing the facts and await your reply.

(Signed) **Editors, New Masses.**

* * *

Protest Actions Urged

The League of Struggle for Negro Rights, the Communist Party, the International Labor Defense, and the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, yesterday sent out a joint call for immediate protest from every part of the country, demanding an end to this reign of terror, raising the following demands:

An end to the reign of terror!

Death penalty to the lynchers!

Disarming of the Ku Klux Klan gangsters!

Arming of the Negroes of Georgia and their white sympathizers for self-defense!

Indemnity to families and relatives of the Negroes lynched!

Protests should be addressed to President Roosevelt, Governor Eugene Talmadge, Atlanta, Ga., and Sheriff J. J. Smith, at Louisville, Ga.

These should be held responsible in all wires and protests for the lives and safety of all Negroes now held and for the lives of all those threatened by the raiding nightriders.

NEGRO SUSPECT HUNTED BY POSSE

Constitution

Shot Intended for Garageman Kills Harrison Man. Negro Eludes Police.

4-23-34

HARRISON, Ga., April 22 (AP)—A negro who shot a white man to death here last night was hunted by a posse of officers and citizens today.

The negro, officers said, killed John New after an argument with New's brother over a garage bill. When the negro drew a pistol to shoot, the brother, Buford New, ducked and the bullet struck John New in the right ear, killing him instantly, authorities said they were informed.

Fleeing from the scene, the negro exchanged shots with Policeman Wilson Holland but escaped. A posse of several hundred citizens joined officers in a hunt led by bloodhounds but lost the trail on railroad tracks between Harrison and Wrightsville.

Officers from both Washington and Johnson county joined in the search, which lasted all night. Johnson county officers continued to lead the hunt today. New is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd New, and nine brothers and three sisters. Funeral services are planned tomorrow.

NEGRO BELIEVED NABBED BY MOB

SAVANNAH, Ga.—(AP)—Searchers in Bryan County hunting for a Negro booked as George White, charged with attempting to attack a white woman, found his sweater Saturday and believed he had been lynched by a masked mob that took him from officers Friday night. News

The sweater was found near the spot where the woman reported she had left her car Friday to remove a tree that was obstructing the highway. As she returned to the automobile a nude Negro ran from the woods and grabbed her. 9-2-34

She was dragged into the woods under threats of bodily harm but apparently her screams frightened the Negro and he fled.

Later White was arrested and removed from a quickly gathering crowd when Sheriff H. G. White told them he wanted to compare White's footprints with those near the scene of the attempted attack.

The Negro was kept in the Liberty County Jail until Friday night when it was considered no longer safe and officers started for Savannah with him. They were held up by a band of masked, armed men and forced to release their prisoner. The band drove away followed by several automobiles. Birmingham, Ala.

Sheriff M. F. Clark, of Liberty County, said the Negro admitted the attempted attack. He was quoted as saying he placed the log in the road and while nude, grabbed the woman when she left her car. The sheriff said the Negro told him he became frightened, released the woman, obtained his clothes and fled.

NEGRO ATTACKER FEARED LYNCHED

Telegraph & News
9-2-34
Macon, Ga.

No Trace Found of Man Taken From Officers by Mob in Liberty County Friday Night

SAVANNAH, Ga., Sept. 1 (AP)—Searchers in Bryan county hunting for a Negro booked as George White, charged with attempting to attack a white woman, found his sweater today and believed he had been lynched by a masked mob that took him from officers last night.

The sweater was found near the spot where the woman reported she had left her car yesterday to remove a tree that was obstructing the highway. As she returned to the automobile a nude Negro ran from the woods and grabbed her.

She was dragged into the woods under threats of bodily harm but apparently her screams frightened the Negro and he fled.

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The sweater was found today near the scene.

Negro Taken From Mob Is Found Alive, Jailed

Constitution

SAVANNAH, Ga., Sept. 3.—(UP) George White, negro, was brought to the Chatham county jail here today badly wounded after being reported lynched Saturday. 9-4-34

White was taken from Bryan county officers at Ways Station, Ga., by a mob after he reportedly confessed to attempting to assault a white woman. Atlanta Ga.

Bryan county officers found the negro today in a negro woman's house and brought him to the jail here so badly wounded he could not walk. They refused to explain what had occurred after the mob snatched him last week or how he had been wounded.

Negro Survives Attack Of Mob

Constitution

SAVANNAH, GA., Sept. 3.—(AP)—A negro who lived through the fury of a fusillade of bullets fired by a mob today was placed in jail here in a critical condition and apparently dazed by his experience. 9-4-34

The negro, booked as George White, is charged with an attempted attack on a white woman and was taken from the hands of officers last Friday night.

Searchers later found his blood-stained sweater and believed he had met death at the hands of the mob. Found by officers later he was in a serious condition from four pistol wounds in the head and numberous bullets in the legs.

The negro was dazed and Deputy Jailer R. B. Rossiter said, "just stared at you" when asked questions. Officers did not know the story of his escape from the mob. Montgomery

White was found by Sheriff A. G. White, of Bryan County, who went to a house on a tip received from Chatham (Savannah) County police. The woman in whose home White was found had gone to another house to obtain medicine and her actions were reported to police. Ala.

White was charged by officers with having placed a tree across a road in Bryan County last Friday. A white woman stopped her car to remove the obstruction and the negro, nude, ran from a woods and grabbed her, dragging her back into the woods. He apparently became frightened by her screams and ran.

White was arrested and taken to Liberty County but officers feared mob violence and had started to Savannah with him when a band of masked, armed men forced them to release their prisoner.

Pembroke, Ga., Journal
September 7, 1934

Negrb That Was Lynched? Now In Chatham County Jail

For the first time in history, so far as we know, a negro that had committed the crime of assault with intent to rape, and who had been arrested, lodged in jail and finally taken away from two of Georgia's sheriffs by an infuriated mob, has lived to tell of his experience.

But that is the case of George White, a negro man who was arrested on last Friday afternoon by Sheriff White of Bryan county and lodged in the Liberty county jail at Hinesville. The negro was being moved from the Liberty county jail to the Chatham county ail in Savannah by Sheriff Clark of Liberty county, Sheriff White of Bryan county and Deputy Sheriff Dearing of Bryan county when they were stopped by a mob in the lower part of the county and the negro was taken away from them.

Nothing more was heard of the negro until Monday. On Friday morning a blood spot was in the road near where the scene of the crime was alleged to have taken place and a bloody shirt was hanging to a tree, an it was generally accepted that the negro had met death at the hands of the mob and that his body had just not been located.

But, lo and behoid, the negro was again located at the home of his aunt, who lived near Rabbit Hill just a few miles below Ways Station and the sheriff again took charge of the prisoner and this time landed him safe and sound behind the bars in the Chatham county jail.

The deitor of this paper went to Savannah with Sheriff White on Tuesday and the negro at that time walked up three flights of stairs in the Chatham county jail to be examined by Dr. O'Neil, county physician for Chatham county. It was found that the negro had four pistol bullets in his head and that he had been shot through his right knee, and unless complications set in he would soon be well from the effects of his experience at the hands of a Georgia mob.

We have heard various and and sundry explanations of what really happened, and just how the negro managed to make his escape and live to tell of his experience, but the most plausible one is the fact that there was not enough leadership and too much liquor and as consequence of this the negro escaped death at the hands of the mob and today is in the Chatham county jail and has done considerable talking about just who was in the mob and just who shot him.

The only criticism we have to make of the whole affair is simply this, that this bunch of men should have remembered that "dead" niggers" can't do any talking. They had the right man and if they had done their duty the county of Bryan would have been saved considerable money and maybe a great deal of trouble. Time alone can tell.

NEGRO IS HUNTED FOR AXE ATTACK

Telegraph

Zeke Wimberly, Sawmill Operator in Twiggs, Victim of Employe's Assault

9-20-34

Zeke Wimberly, well-known Jeffersonville sawmill operator and lumber dealer, suffered a scalp laceration and bruises on the head Tuesday afternoon in an encounter with a Negro employe, according to Sheriff Sam Kitchens of Twiggs county, who was in Macon yesterday. Macon Ga.

Sheriff Kitchens said a posse of approximately 50 citizens, assisted by track dogs, chased the Negro, Lint Baker, most of Tuesday night, but the fugitive finally eluded his pursuers.

According to the information received here ,the Negro attacked Mr. Wimberly after the employer had upbraided him for indifference to his work at the Wimberly sawmill, a short distance from Jeffersonville. The Negro is said to have grabbed an axe and to have attacked the sawmill operator.

Mr. Wimberly was successful in breaking the force of the blow and the blade of the axe sunk only deep enough in his head to produce a scalp wound, which was closed with four stitches. Another blow was struck with the handle of the axe.

Sheriff Kitchens said Baker would be charged with assault with intent to murder when he is apprehended. He described Baker as be- one inch tall and "dark gingercake" in color.

Ellaville Police Chief Slain, Negro Sought

Constitution

12-25-34

ELLAVILLE, Ga., Dec. 24.—(AP) Chief of Police W. B. Souter, 42, was shot to death tonight and a posse led by bloodhounds began a hunt for a negro the officer had taken in custody earlier in the evening.

None saw the shooting but Night Chief of Police Charles Pilcher said investigation had led to the theory that his superior was shot down with his own pistol taken from him by his captive.

Atlanta Ga.

Lynchings-1934
Side Lights.

Louisiana

4896

Officers Slay Negro Sought For Assault

Advertiser

ALEXANDRIA, LA., March 24.—(AP)—Arrested for assaulting a young white woman, Donaldson Butler, 21-year-old negro, early today was shot and fatally wounded by officers who said he attempted to wrestle a pistol from a deputy.

3-23-34

The young woman was assaulted late last night on a street in Bunkie, near here, while she was out walking with a sister. She suffered a broken arm and other injuries. The negro was arrested shortly afterwards and identified by the attack victim.

Montgomery Ala.

Deputies said Butler was then placed in an automobile to be taken to the Marksville jail and that he attacked one of the officers en route in an effort to grab a pistol. Another officer then shot and fatally wounded the prisoner. He died in the Avoyelles Parish Jail shortly afterward.

NEGRO ASSAULTER SHOT

News

Louisiana Deputies Say Prisoner Attempted To Seize Pistol

ALEXANDRIA, La.—(AP)—Arrested for assaulting a young white woman, Donaldson Butler, 21-year-old Negro, early Saturday was shot and fatally wounded by officers who said he attempted to wrest a pistol from a deputy.

3-25-34

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Birmingham Ala.

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NEGRO PRISONER SLAIN BY LOUISIANA DEPUTY

Constitution

ALEXANDRIA, La., March 24.—(AP)—Arrested for assaulting a young white woman, Donaldson Butler, 21-year-old negro, early today was shot and fatally wounded by officers who said he attempted to wrest a pistol from a deputy.

3-25-34

Atlanta Ga.

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Lynchings - 1934
Side Lights.

Maryland.

4897

New York Evening Post

JAN 5 1934

Mob Threats Stop Police Hunt for Killer

Maryland Detectives Give Up Probe in Woman's Death

VICTIM 85 YEARS OLD

Husband and Negroes Questioned—Gov. Ritchie Is "Surprised"

CRISFIELD, Md., Jan. 5 (AP).—The threat of "possible mob action" today caused authorities investigating the murder of an aged Marion Station woman on New Year's Eve to delay the apprehension of any suspect in the case.

A formal statement, issued by two Baltimore detectives co-operating with Somerset County officials in the inquiry, indicated a Negro was wanted in connection with the slaying of Mrs. Margaret Brumbley, whose body was found on her bed early Monday.

"Due to information received through authorities of possible mob action," the statement of the detectives said, "we thought it advisable to postpone our activities until we received advice from higher authorities."

Negro Lynched Recently

The detectives are Sergeants Walter Martin and Stewart Deal. By "higher authorities" they were understood to include the Sheriff, State's Attorney and Circuit Court judge.

Mrs. Brumbley, an eighty-five-year-old farm woman, was found lying partly clothed on the bed with her head battered by a blunt instrument and stabbed twice. The stab wounds were believed by authorities to have been made by an oyster knife.

Crisfield and Marion Station are located in Somerset County, where on October 18 a mob dragged George Armwood, Negro, accused of attacking an aged white woman, from the Princess Anne jail and hanged him near the outskirts of the town.

The intimation of mob action was received with expressions of surprise by Governor Albert C. Ritchie at Annapolis and Charles H. Gaither, Baltimore police commissioner, who sent Martin and Deal here at the request of Somerset County officials.

Governor Ritchie, who sent National Guard troops to the Eastern shore in November to arrest four suspects in the Armwood lynching, said:

"No county official at all has communicated with me about the case," remarking that Commissioner Gaither had heard nothing "to indicate that there is evidence to justify the arrest of anybody or that there has been or is any indication of trouble in the county."

Three Questioned

Three persons were questioned at length during the early part of the investigation. There were Fred Brumley, husband of the slain woman, who found her body after he returned home from Crisfield where he spent New Year's Eve, and two Negroes, Sam Jones and his son, James.

The investigators, including the two detectives, Sheriff Luther Daugherty and Deputy Sheriff Robert Maddox, visited Marion Station yesterday to question other persons.

Sam Jones was reported to have been seen in the vicinity of the house on the previous day, but investigators, after questioning the two Negroes, said they could not have been connected with the murder.

Sergeant Martin, a finger print expert, came here on Monday, taking several photographs and making several impressions of finger prints.

The statement of the detectives added that "the investigation up to the present time led us to believe that the crime was committed by a Negro."

Missouri.

4898

Lynchings - 1934
Side Lights

Killed By Possemen

5-4-34

WEST PLAINS, Mo., May 3.—(AP)—A man tentatively identifie as Harry Williams was killed an his companion was wounded in gun battle with a posse late toda state highway patrolmen announced.

Kansas City Police Threaten to Murder Negro Communist

Daily Worker

Police Judge Says Will Teach Berry Lesson for "Mixing with Whites"

6-7-34

KANSAS CITY, June 1—"And we ain't gonna let that nigger go. We're gonna learn him sump'n about bein' smart and runnin' around with white folks. . . ."

New York

Thus spoke the police judge in answer to protests of workers against the arrest of A. W. Berry, Negro worker and Section Organizer of the Communist Party here. Berry was arrested for organizing a union of relief workers on forced labor projects.

Captain of Detectives Dahlin said in an interview with a defense attorney that his men "had orders to pick that nigger up on sight," and that they "meant to either run h out of town or kill him."

Posse Hunts Negro For Double Slaying

Constitution

CHARLESTON, Mo., Aug. 26.—(AP)—Police and incensed residents organized a widespread search today for a transient negro, following the fatal shooting of Jess and Dan Cofer, white overseers on the Tynearson plantation at Wolf island, 25 miles southeast of here. 8-27-34

The two white men were shot to death as they watched a negro dance which was in progress at the home of a negro tenant on the plantation, a brother of Mose Hurley, accused by witnesses of the slayings. Hurley and his brother fled after the shooting. Atlanta, Ga.

Officers learned it climaxed a quarrel between the two white men and Hurley. Four negroes were held in the county jail here as material witnesses for the coroner's inquest tomorrow.

4898

Lynchings-1934

Side Lights.

New York.

4899

Find Negro Murdered by Unknown Mob

Daily Worker

Evidence Points to the Lynching in N. Y. Golf Club

5-7-34

NEW CASTLE, N. Y., May 6.—The body of an unidentified Negro, with a rope around his neck, was found here yesterday on the greens of the exclusive Pines Bridge Country Club. New York,

Although police officials hastened to deny it, he was evidently the victim of a brutal lynching, the first reported in New York State in years.

The body bore signs of a brutal beating. The Negro workers' head had been battered with a bludgeon. Nearly all his clothes had been torn off. The ground around the spot where his body was found was bloodstained. A trial indicated he had been dragged to the spot from an automobile which stopped on the Pines Bridge Road 500 feet away. The rope around his neck, a piece of clothesline, had been twisted around three times, and had evidently been used to drag him, still living, to the place.

A whitewash autopsy under the direction of Dr. Amos Squire, medical examiner, and the state police, is being prepared by statements from Sergeant H. I. Gay of the Hawthorne state police, and Chief Clerk Marcy Held of the local police, that "all the evidence discredits the theory of a lynching." The only evidence available, however, pointed very definitely in that direction.

Telegrams demanding that the lynchers be apprehended, indicted and the death penalty for lynchers enforced should be sent to Governor Lehman at Albany, and to Dr. Amos Squire at New Castle, N. Y.

Lynchings - 1934
Side Lights.

North Carolina

POSSE IN CAROLINA HUNTS NEGRO ATTACKER

LEXINGTON, N. C., Nov. 1.—(AP) Several hundred men, many of them armed, combed the countryside near Thomasville today for a negro accused of attacking a white girl at pistol point.

Three suspects were taken before the victim at the Thomasville jail, officers said, but were released when she failed to identify any one of them as her assailant.

Ohio.

4902

Lynchings-1934
Side Lights.

Dec 8-34

Negro Barber Exiled From Town In Ohio

Wellington, Ohio, Once Slave Haven, Drives Out Man After Quarrel

WELLINGTON, O. — This Ohio town, which in Civil War days was a haven for fugitive slaves, last week drove a colored man from its borders as an outcast.

The modern "fugitive" is George Walden, a barber who has conducted a shop here since 1928.

Walden fled because of a threat of mob violence following a quarrel with a Wellington member of the American Legion over the payment of a debt.

The Legionnaire, James Casey, a shoemaker, charged Walden stabbed him during the quarrel. Walden was indicted by the Grand Jury on a charge of stabbing to wound, but was acquitted at his trial.

But the case did not end there.

Members of the Morgan-Dirlan Post of the American Legion thought justice had not been done. They passed a resolution asking a further investigation by the jury. This request was not granted.

Then, one night, two weeks ago, a crowd gathered in front of Walden's home and, according to the colored barber, threatened him.

Next morning he found a noose hanging on his front door. He went to his shop and found a noose there, too. For three days he kept his shop open. There was no business. Walden employed a bodyguard. Finally, he gave up. Saturday night, November 24, he turned the keys of the shop over to the landlord and announced he "couldn't stand this any longer."

Tuesday, November 27, he left town. Friends said he had gone to Cleveland to find work. It was said that Mrs. Walden and the daughter, Mary Ann, 3, were living with frends in Oberlin.

Officials of the Legion said they had no connection with the noose incident. A formal statement asserted: "We refuse to accept any credit or criticism for the noose. We had nothing to do with it."

Old residents here recalled how the town in 1858 was the scene of the famous Wellington rescue case, in which the leading citizens took part in open violation of the fugitive slave law and rescued a colored slave from three deputies taking him back to the South.

The slave, John Price, had been spirited north through the "underground railroad." The deputies captured him in Oberlin and took him to the American House in Wellington before going back to Kentucky. Wellington's sympathies were with the colored man. After an all-day siege, citizens rescued him from the deputies, who had barricaded themselves in the American House attic. The Wellington library now stands on the site of the old hotel.

Lynchings-1934
Side Lights.

Oklahoma.

4903

POSSE HUNTS SLAYER

rmer and Wife Killed in Fiel By Negro

IDABEL, Okla., Feb. 13.—(AP)—Dan Stiles, McCurtain County armer, and his wife were shot t eath in a field near their home today by Frank Clark, a negro tenant. 2-14-34

A posse of 200 persons formed immediately and searched the Red River bottoms for the negro. Officers feared violence should he be captured.

Lynchings-1934

Side Lights.

Pennsylvania

4904

EVEN IN PENNSYLVANIA

News

Posse Hunting For Negro Who Attempted To Attack Girl

PAOLI, Pa.—(AP)—More than 10 men tramped the fields and wood lands near here early Tuesday searching for a six-foot Negro a 1 year-old girl said attempted to attack her.

9-12-34

The intended victim, Jane Shinton, daughter of Harry Shinton, superintendent of the United States Veterans Hospital, Coatesville, said the man stopped her on her way home from a friend's home.

Birmingham

He asked her to read an address written on a slip of paper. As she took it, he grasped her by the neck, clamped her mouth and dragged her toward a clump of bushes.

Struggling, she freed herself, ran home, and within a half hour men carrying lanterns and flashlights and leading dogs, spread fan-like from the community. State highway patrolmen joined in the hunt.

Mrs. Emily Shinton, the girl's mother, is a former postmistress of Paoli

Lynchings - 1934
Side Lights.

South Carolina.

4900

POSSE HUNTS NEGROES IN OFFICER'S SLAYING

GREENVILLE, S. C., Dec. 26.—(UP)—A posse of several hundred white citizens joined officers today in a widespread search for two negroes suspected of shooting and beating to death State Highway Patrolman E. D. Milam late Christmas Day.

Milam was killed as he sought to quiet a free-for-all fight that broke out among negroes attending a Christmas tree party at the Laurel Creek Methodist church, near here.

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Tennessee

Lynchings-1934
Side Lights

4906

Murfreesboro, Tenn., News-Journal
February 19, 1934

Bedford Lynching Report Is Untrue

Sheriff T. E. Gant of Bedford county tated at 1 o'clock this afternoon that he rumored lynching of two negroes n that section Sunday was groundless.

Numerous versions of the story were irculating in Murfreesboro this morn-ng, but nobody seemed to know how hey were started. The sheriff declared there was no truth in the rumor He did not know how it originated.

Texas.

4905

Lynchings-1934
6
Side Lights.
6

Posse Is Hunting Negro as Slayer

Telegraph

Bloodhounds Used to Track Frank Clark in Texas

2-14-34

TEXARKANA, Texas, Feb. 13 (AP). A posse of 300 men headed by bloodhounds tonight was believed to be closing in on Frank Clark, Negro, in Red river bottoms north of Clarksville, Texas, where he fled following the slaying early today of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Stiles near Idabel, Okla.

Bloodhounds were rushed to Red River county, Texas, from here late today after word was received by the sheriff's department that Clark had obtained passage across Red river on a fisherman's boat about noon.

Macon Ga.

Reports here from Idabel tonight were that practically every man in Idabel had started for the scene of the manhunt. They were leaving Idabel by carloads.

Mrs. Stiles, who lived about two hours after being shot twice through the chest, revealed that an argument over land had caused the shooting.

Lynchings-1934

States, Special Information About, Particular.

4907

WILKES BARRE, PA.
NEWS

AUG 9 - 1934

UNENVIABLE LYNCHING RECORD.

Lynchings, in the period from 1889 to 1932, killed 3,565 persons in the United States. Of this total of victims, 692 were white persons, 2,873 were Negroes. Mississippi and Georgia shared the ~~dishonor~~ of being the states in which more than a fourth of the lynchings were committed. East state was the scene of 452 lynchings. Georgia lynched 26 white persons and 427 Negroes, and Mississippi lynched 24 white persons and 429 Negroes. Only Louisiana, with 332 lynchings, and Texas, with 285 lynchings, even approached these appalling records.

One recalls these figures at this time because there will be held today in Mississippi a trial wherefrom impressive evidence may issue that the Magnolia State has turned over a new leaf. The trial will be that of four white men who, it is charged, beath to death a 70-year-old Negro for the alleged offense of talking disrespectfully to a white man over a rental agreement. Arrested amid what amounted to a public protest against their crime, the four men were placed in jail and have been held there without bond for trial today.

Public protest in Mississippi would not have stopped at protest if the case had been racially reversed. Moreover, it is yet to be seen what will be the jury's reaction to the evidence to be presented today. Regardless of such considerations, however, it is a step forward when, in a state where more than 400 Negroes have been lynched since 1889, the jublic objects to so-called "white man's justice" and the law brings to trial four men accused of committing murder in the name of such justice.